

Hafa Adai!

14 winners in 'Vaccination for Education' raffle. PAGE 2
Aetna Life Insurance is selected for GHLI program. PAGE 7

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2021

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3rd COVID-19 vaccine shot OK'd for immunocompromised patients

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp. will be offering a third dose of an mRNA COV-

ID-19 vaccine to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

According to a CHCC statement yesterday, this offer of a booster shot for a certain

group of people is based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Hu-

man Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug

Administration. Patients who are moderate- See VACCINE on Page 4

Child Tax Credit plan OK'd

WA SHING -
TON, D.C.—
The increased
child tax credit
for Marianas families included
by the U.S. Congress in the
American Rescue Plan Act in
March has now been approved
for distribution.

Next up is for the CNMI
government to start distributing
the child tax checks. It was
not immediately learned when
that is going to happen.

The U.S. Treasury Department informed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) the Commonwealth's expenditure plan was received Tuesday night in Washington and approved yesterday. Treasury did not share details of the plan, citing confidentiality.

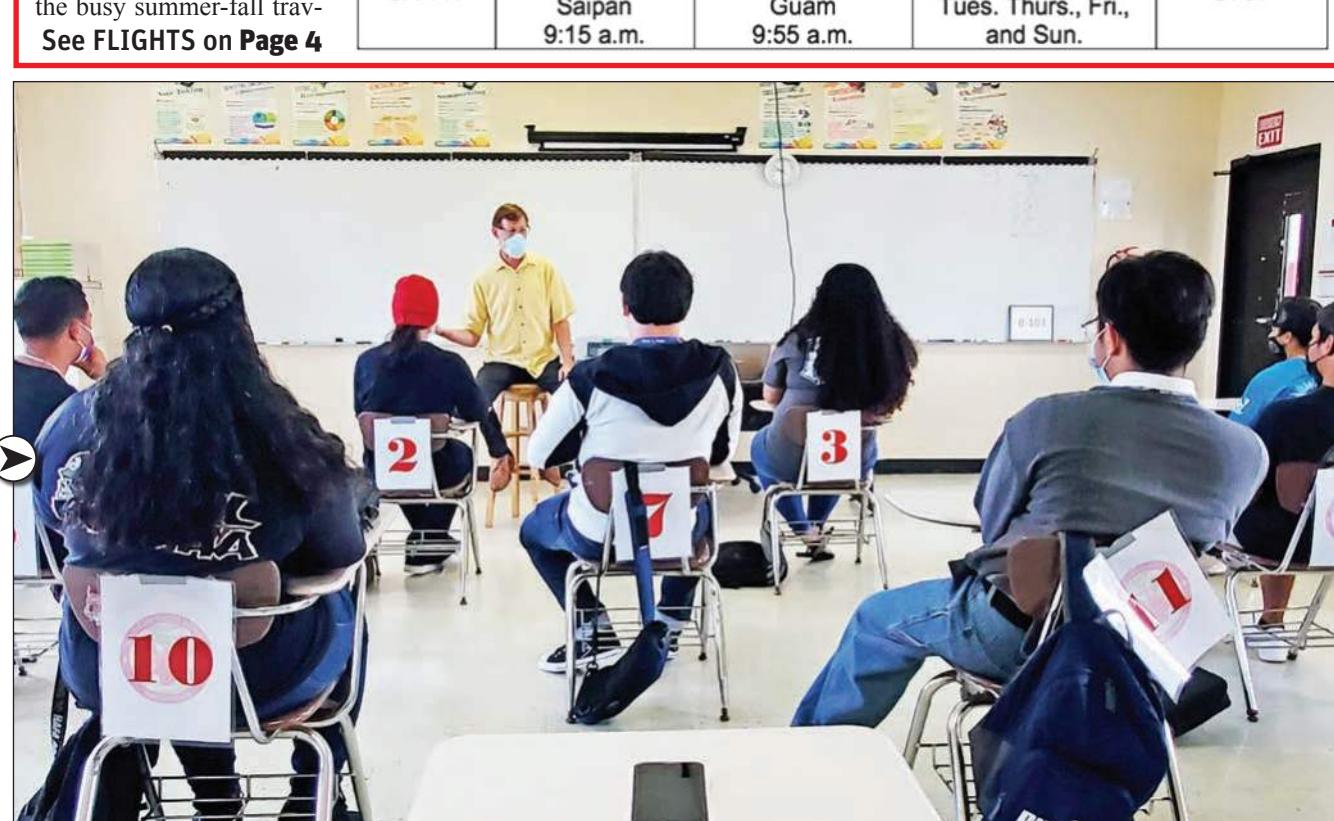
See TAX on Page 4

BACK TO SCHOOL

David Bucher, a Chemistry and Biology teacher at Kagman High School, speaks with his students on the first day of classes of the CNMI Public School System's 2021-2022 school year. Currently, PSS elementary schools are open for full face-to-face classes, while PSS middle and high schools conduct a mix of online and in-person classes.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Flight No.	Airport (departs/arrives)		Frequency	Aircraft
UA 174	Guam	Saipan	Mon., Wed., and Sat.	B737
	4:45 a.m.	5:26 a.m.	Tues. Thurs., Fri., and Sun.	
UA 117	Guam	Saipan	8:11 a.m.	B737
	7:30 a.m.			
UA 117	Saipan	Guam	Mon., Wed., and Sat.	B737
	6:30 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	Tues. Thurs., Fri., and Sun.	
UA 117	Saipan	Guam	9:15 a.m.	B737
	9:15 a.m.	9:55 a.m.		



COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY	
LEGEND:	
Red:	Least safe
Orange	
Yellow	
Blue	
Green:	Safest
Source: Office of the Governor	

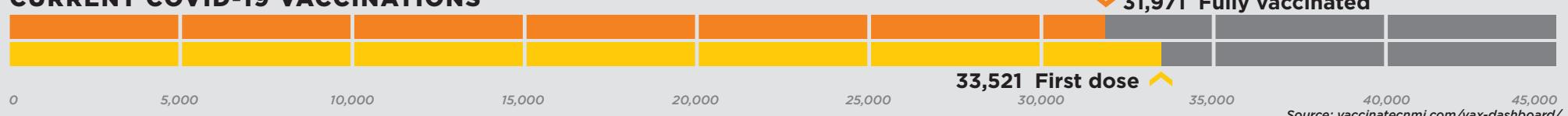
AT A GLANCE	
As of 6:53pm, Aug. 18, 2021	
VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI	
Eligible Population	75.4%
Fully Vaccinated:	75.4%
Days since last community transmission	148

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,051
Fully Vaccinated:	27,118
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,470
Fully Vaccinated:	4,170
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	683

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9081	37	9,118
Recovered	8,547	15	8,562
Active	375	37	412
Deaths	144	0	144
SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	220	0	220
Traced via Travel Screening	183	0	183
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

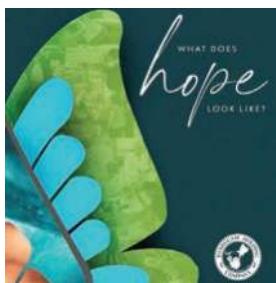
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bank of Guam's Year in Review wins honors at the 35th International Annual Report Competition.

PAGE 11



ASIA

The Taliban vow to respect women's rights and forgive those who fought them.

PAGE 13



WORLD

Haiti raises the death toll from an earthquake to 1,941 and the number of injured to 9,900.

PAGE 13



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Guam reports 144th COVID-19 death; 63 new cases

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam reported its 144th COVID-19-related fatality on the island on Tuesday, even as the territory notched 63 new positive cases of COVID-19 out of 1,080 tests performed on Monday.

In a press release from Guam's Joint Information Center, it said the latest fatality

» One incoming CNMI traveler tests positive

was a 65-year-old male patient with underlying health conditions and no verifiable record of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. He was pronounced dead at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Monday, Aug. 16. The man

tested positive for COVID-19 on Aug. 9.

As of Aug. 17, Guam has had a total of 9,081 officially reported cases of COVID-19, with 144 deaths and 390 cases in active isolation, inclusive of 14 hospitalized cases with two hospitalized cases receiving ICU-level care, and 8,547 not in active isolation.

"Each soul lost to this deadly virus is a sobering reminder that

our fight with COVID-19 continues. To his family, friends, and all those who loved him, we extend our deepest sympathies during these difficult times, and we pray for healing," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC press release.

Leon Guerrero emphasized the importance of being vaccinated. "While we have made significant progress in our vaccination efforts, there are still

tens of thousands of our people who remain vulnerable to this virus. That is why, if you are eligible for the vaccine, I urge you to get your shots. Please protect yourself, protect those you love, and protect our community."

In related news, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced on Aug. 17 that one more incoming traveler was confirmed positive for COVID-19. The individual was

identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth-day testing on Aug. 16. The case brings the CNMI's total to 220 cases since March 28, 2020.

The individual has since been quarantined and monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contract tracing for those who were in most immediate contact with the individual.

14 winners in 'Vaccination for Education' raffle

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's first day of classes for this school year yesterday saw 14 CNMI students being named winners of raffle prizes in PSS' COVID-19 vaccination campaign, "Vaccination for Education."

Seven students each won

Seven top-of-the-line smart-

See RAFFLE on Page 4

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NAP office closed today

The CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito will be closed to the public today, Aug. 18, 2021, for administrative purposes.

The NAP office will resume normal hours on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021. NAP beneficiaries and the public are encouraged to visit the NAP website cnminap.

gov.mp or the NAP Facebook page at facebook.com/nap.cnnmi for any updates.

The CNMI NAP office and the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs thank the public for their understanding and patience. The CNMI NAP remains dedicated to supporting the CNMI through its programs. (PR)

Prospective jurors to be drawn

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 3106, notice is hereby given that the Clerk of the Superior Court will be publicly drawing prospective jurors for Panels 21AS, 21BS, 21CS, 21DS, 21ES, 21FS, 21GS, 21HS, 21IS, 21JS, 21KS, 21LS, 21MS, 21NS, 21OS, 21PS, 21QS, 21RS, 21SS, 21TS, 21US, 21VS, 21WS, 21XS,

21YS, and 21ZS on Aug. 27, 2021, at 3pm before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Superior Court. (PR)

Notice to all CNMI veterans

Terilynn Francisco, LCSW, will be seeing clients from 8am to 5pm, by appointment, at the Veterans Affairs Outreach Clinic Building, third floor Marina Heights Business Park. If you have any questions, contact (670) 322-0035 (Ruth Coleman) or (671) 6S7-2083 (Teri Francisco). (PR)

5.5-magnitude quake in FDM region

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.5 occurred about 82 miles east of Farallon de Medinilla at 1:03am last Aug. 12, 2021. Based on all available data, there was no tsunami threat to Guam, Rota, Tinian, or Saipan from this earthquake. Some areas may have experienced shaking. (PR)

Abram Franz Cepeda Togawa
P.O. Box 5419 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 483-1048

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF:) CIVIL ACTION
PEDRO PALACIOS) NO. 21-0229
TOGAWA,) NOTICE OF
Deceased,) HEARING AND
By:) NOTICE TO
ABRAM FRANZ) CREDITORS
CEPEDA TOGAWA,) Petitioners.)

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Letters of Administration seeking appointment of ABRAM FRANZ CEPEDA TOGAWA as the Administrator for the Estate of PEDRO PALACIOS TOGAWA (Deceased), was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustia-Imwil Aweewe, Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 10:00 a.m. on the 26th of August, 2021.

All persons having any objection to the petition, or having claims against the Estate or against the deceased, should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

DATED this 3rd day of August 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Saipan Tribune

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Fire cadets complete first phase of training

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cadets of the 14th Fire Academy have successfully completed the first phase of their training and have begun the second phase, which focuses on academics.

Last Friday, the 43 cadets enrolled in the 14th cycle of the Fire Academy officially started the academic phase, which is expected to last another four months.

JJ Concepcion, who is the DFEMS training coordinator, said the cadets completed the "Red" phase of the academy, better known as the physical training, last Monday. The Red phase, Concepcion said, consisted of intense physical fitness training, discipline, and the ethics of being a cadet and being a firefighter. The phase lasted a month and the cadets will now undergo the academic phase, where they must acquire 40 credits at the Northern Marianas College.

"Upon completion, they will officially take on the title of Firefighter 1 and will undergo a recognition ceremony," he said.

The cadets are on track for their graduation, which is scheduled for December. Following graduation, they will go on ride-alongs—where they will join firefighters as they go about their work—for actual, on-the-job, training.

Of the initial 52 cadets, 43 have completed the first phase and successfully entered the second. Of the 43 cadets, seven are from Rota, six are from Tinian, and 30 are from Saipan.

Initially, the target date for the start of the academy was some time around June but had to be pushed back. The academy officially began on July 19.

DFEMS launched the emergency Fire Academy earlier this year to make up for the loss of the nine firefighters who were earlier terminated for refusing to get vaccinated. The department was left with only 114 personnel due to the loss of the

nine firefighters. Initially, 23 individuals

signed a petition against the mandatory vaccination.

However, only nine were issued termination notices.

Currently, the nine are suing DFEMS and its commissioner, Dennis Mendiola, for violating their constitu-

tional rights and are asking the court to reinstate them to their previous posts while their lawsuit is pending.

Hot Summer SAVINGS

QUALITY USED CARS

Car Model	Sale Price	STK	Miles	KBB
2012 KIA SEDONA LX	\$11,995	20M197E	49,201	\$12,045
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA SPORT 4WD	\$35,995	17P332	18,786	\$36,357
2018 KIA SPORTAGE LX	\$19,995	20D027E	16,133	\$21,271
2014 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT	SOLD	19HS901B	44,202	\$14,024
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT	\$18,995	18HS906	12,150	\$19,304
2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	SOLD	8R271	54,194	\$20,419
2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK	\$14,995	18HS916	10,564	\$15,477
2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER	SOLD	17P326	10,095	\$18,785
2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER	\$19,995	11P314	77,762	\$21,336
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT	\$14,995	16R269	55,153	\$14,450
2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE	\$18,995	15P325	44,202	\$20,295
2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL	\$19,995	9H040D	20,026	\$21,411
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER	\$15,995	20H068A	39,217	\$16,830
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT	\$19,995	8HS879	10,120	\$19,402
2020 HYUNDAI KONA SPORT	\$19,995	22M010A	9,680	\$22,196
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3	\$16,995	18HS904	10,324	\$16,402
2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 TOURING H/B	\$19,995	20D013A	21,120	\$17,801
2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT	\$22,995	15HS981	18,617	\$23,603
2018 KIA OPTIMA LX	\$18,995	18HS925C	10,367	\$19,930
2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	\$19,995	20P307	4,180	\$21,326
2015 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD	\$30,995	15P327	60,757	\$32,187

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Receiver appointed in USA Fanter's suit vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S District Court for the NMI has appointed a receiver in the lawsuit filed by USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. against Imperial Pacific International

(CNMI) LLC to administer, collect, or sell any casino gaming property owned by IPI.

Last week, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted the request of USA Fanter to appoint Clear Management Ltd.

as the plaintiffs' receiver in its suit against IPI.

Pursuant to the order, Clear Management is tasked to administer, collect, or sell any casino gaming property that IPI owns, and to perform any other acts required to satisfy the judgment of

\$2,089,345.28.

Manglona also ordered the parties to meet and discuss the details, terms, and conditions of the receivership.

According to court documents, USA Fanter, through attorney Colin Thompson, sought the appointment of the receiver because IPI failed to respond to the company's demands for payment.

"The appointment of a receiver is necessary when the judgment debtor's holdings are illiquid and complex because enforcement of the judgment by the sheriff would be impractical and unduly burdensome, and an ordinary sheriff's sale is unlikely to result in the recovery of the full value of

Fuel prices fluctuate; go down this time

Fuel prices continue to stray from previous patterns of consecutive increases, this time going down a bit in the CNMI.

According to a gas attendant who works at Mobil Oil Marianas, Mobil lowered its prices again yesterday morning, the CNMI's second reduction in less than a month.

However, before the latest decrease, gas went up by 15 cents just three weeks ago, prior to the first reduction that happened in July.

Mobil took the lead—as it usually does—with a 12-cent decrease. From \$4.87 a gallon, Mobil Oil Marianas reduced its Extra fuel price to \$4.75 a gallon. Mobil also lowered its Supreme fuel from \$5.32 a gallon to

such assets," Thompson said.

Thompson said he is working with other creditors to reach an agreement on a fair and orderly way to sell IPI's assets and distribute the proceeds.

The attorney noted that if no agreement is reached, those creditors reserve the right to object to any proposed distribution of the sale proceeds for the assets that are the subject of this motion.

The federal court earlier granted USA Fanter's request to authorize the sale of IPI's assets, including its vehicles and casino gaming machines, to satisfy the over \$2 million judgment previously entered against them.

More Road to 80 winners get their prizes; \$3,500 and \$1,000 tomorrow

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 went live from Naked Fish Bar and Grill last Friday, where program manager and raffle host Brad Ruszala gave previous raffle winners their prizes and selected last week's winners. Tomorrow, Aug. 20, Road to 80 will select winners of a \$3,500 prize and a \$1,000 bonus prize courtesy of the Bank of Guam.

Ruszala explained during the livestream that there were no streamed cash handoffs the week before as he was off-island for a short period, and quarantined at home after flying back to Saipan. Previ-

ous raffle winners who received their prizes last Friday were Derol Tudela, who won \$500; Yang Soon Ho, who won \$1,000; and Edgardo Sagun, who won \$3,000.

Sagun described his win as not being lucky but a "blessing from God." He thanked Road to 80, the campaign's sponsors, and his family for their support.

Last week's winners were Ericson Faustino, who won \$3,000, and Mary Bellama, who donated her \$1,000 prize to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. CCA president Bo Palacios was at Naked Fish last Friday, and Bellama handed the cash to him in person.

During the livestream, Ruszala said

the campaign recently received a 17-foot Yamaha boat that comes with a 25-horsepower engine and trailer for ease of transport. The boat will join the 2020 Nissan Rogue Sport as a major prize that will be raffled off on Aug. 28 at the Taste of the Marianas. Ruszala added that Bank of Guam recently became a sponsor of Road to 80, and has donated two \$1,000 bonus cash prizes—one tomorrow and one for next week.

To qualify for Road to 80's raffles, a person must be a CNMI resident and must have already received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine.

infected with SARS CoV-2 are also more likely to transmit the virus to household contacts.

When possible, the third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be the same vaccine as the initial series. However, if the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available or is unknown, either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered. The third dose must be administered

at least 28 days after the completion of the initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. At this time, there is no additional dose advised for patients who received a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, and the

CDC does not recommend additional doses or booster shots of a COVID-19 vaccine for any other population.

While vaccination is likely to increase protection, people who are immunocompromised should continue to follow the 3 W's (wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance) to protect themselves and those around them against COVID-19, even after vaccination. (PR)

ernor of the Marianas \$300,000 to cover the cost of paying out the credit monthly."

Monthly payments—\$250 or \$300, depending on the age of the child—are expected to make it easier for families always to have money available to meet their children's need for food, clothing, and other necessities. Lump sum payments tend to be spent all at once.

The American Rescue Plan provides the increased child tax credit for one year. But Democrats in Congress with the backing of the White House are pushing to extend the credit for a longer time in the budget reconciliation package now under consideration.

No Republicans voted for the American Rescue Plan when it passed the House in March. And no Republicans voted for the reconciliation package when it passed the Senate last week. (PR)

6 the credit is raised from \$2,000 to \$3,600. Any family with two working parents and an income below \$150,000 is eligible for the full credit. Single working parents earning up to \$112,500 are also eligible for the full credit.

The Rescue Plan also makes the child tax credit fully refundable. So as long as they file their income tax return, even families with no tax liability still qualify for the assistance.

"One important element of the American Rescue Plan is that it allows families in the U.S. states and the District of Columbia to receive their child tax credit on a monthly basis," Sablan said. "But without seeing its plan we do not know whether the Commonwealth will also help families with that regular monthly payment. I certainly hope so. We worked hard to put language in Section 9611 of the Rescue Plan, giving the gov-

\$5.20 while its diesel also went down from \$5.03 a gallon to \$4.91.

Shell Marianas is expected to reduce its prices today.

According to a 19-year-old motorist, at this point, he has lost track of the trend in gas prices and doesn't care whether it increases or not. "I feel like it doesn't matter at this point because we can't even control it and we can't live without it," he said.

His companion, an 18-year-old female, said she hopes that it just doesn't get worse. "I just hope it doesn't exceed \$5. Over that is too much for such a small island where the minimum wage is like \$7.25. That would be ridiculous." (Kimberly B. Esmores)

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

el season.

The daily morning flight schedule began on Aug. 1 and increases capacity between the islands as travel restrictions have recently eased.

"We are pleased to offer daily flights between Guam and Saipan to provide more convenient flight schedules for our customers," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Airport Operations for Asia-Pacific. "The new daily schedule will also provide our Saipan customers with better connectivity to Asia and the U.S. mainland."

United also confirmed the August-September flight schedules for Guam as follows:

- Guam to Honolulu, daily
- Guam to Tokyo/Narita, daily

■ Guam to Manila, five times weekly in August and increasing to daily in September

■ Guam to Koror, Palau, one flight weekly

■ Guam to Yap, FSM, one monthly flight

■ Guam to Pohnpei and Chuuk, one flight weekly

The Island Hopper, one flight weekly Guam-Chuuk-Pohnpei-Kosrae-Kwajalein-Majuro-Honolulu and one flight-weekly Guam-Chuuk-Pohnpei-Majuro-Honolulu

Tickets are available for booking through united.com, travel agents, or United's City Ticket Offices. Flight schedules are subject to change. Visit united.com or the United App for the latest flight information.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

VACCINE

From Page 1

ately to severely immunocompromised can obtain an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) by walking into the COVID-19 mass vaccination site (i.e., Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center), or through the CHCC Immunization Clinic, and requesting the third dose.

Consent forms for a third dose for an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine must be completed by patients at the time of vaccination for the third dose. The consent forms will include a section in which the patient/vaccine recipient will self-attest to being moderately to severely immunocompromised and that they have already received two doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Included in CDC's recommendations of people who may receive an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine are recipients of organ or stem cell transplants who are

taking immunosuppressive therapy; active recipients of treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies; people with advanced or untreated HIV infection; people who have moderate or severe immunodeficiency; or active recipients of high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress their immune response. A full list of conditions can be found on CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov/>).

Individuals should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

According to the CDC, emerging data suggests some people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems do not always build the same level of immunity compared to people who are not immunocompromised. In addition, in small studies, fully vaccinated immunocompromised people have accounted for a large proportion of hospitalized breakthrough cases (40-44%).

Immunocompromised people who are

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TAX

From Page 1

"This is very good news for families in the Marianas," said Sablan. "Although we do not have exact information about how the Commonwealth government plans to distribute the new, increased child tax credit, we do know what the law says and how much families can expect to receive."

Sablan said this increased child tax credit will be welcome "especially now, at the start of school when they are always extra expenses for parents."

The American Rescue Plan, passed in the House of Representatives on March 10, contains the largest child tax credit ever for families. The credit goes from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children from age 6 through 17. For children under age

6 the credit is raised from \$2,000 to \$3,600. Any family with two working parents and an income below \$150,000 is eligible for the full credit. Single working parents earning up to \$112,500 are also eligible for the full credit.

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RAFFLE

From Page 2

phones—four Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultras and three iPhone 12 Pro Maxes—were also up for grabs in the raffle. The four Samsung winners were Mark Cao from Saipan International School; Edgard Acolador II from Tinian; Aiden Masga from Rota; and Zyron Espiritu Santo from Kagman High School. The three iPhone winners were Samuel Cope from Marianas High School; and Gabriel Baylon and Kilstina Passa from Dandan Middle School. The smartphones come with free one-year contracts.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said Tuesday that he and

a team will be going to the students' campuses soon to personally hand them the raffle prizes.

To enter the raffle's selection pool, students who were eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine had to submit their COVID-19 vaccination cards to their respective school's registrar before noon Aug. 17. Ada spun a virtual wheel on Tuesday afternoon to select the winners.

The number of students in the raffle selection pool and the number of students who submitted their COVID-19 vaccination cards to their school registrars were not immediately learned as of press time Wednesday.

Students being vaccinated against COVID-19 is not required but is highly encouraged.

A weekly promotional flyer for Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store. The top features a blue canopy tent graphic, the store's name in large blue letters, and a circular seal for the National Association of Convenience Stores. A large green and yellow 'BIG SALE' graphic with 'THIS WEEK'S' above it and 'SHOP NOW!' below it. Below the sale graphic is a date range 'AUGUST 20-26'. To the right, a blue oval says 'WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS' with a small circular logo. The left side of the page lists various items with their sale prices: YESCOME EZ POPUP 10'X10' CANOPY (\$159.95), BEACH CHAIR (\$22.95), TRI TEMP MINI TOP LOAD WATER DISPENSER (\$159.95), IQ 2X8" DJ SPEAKER (\$74.95), SUCASA 36" X 80" SECURITY DOOR (\$175.95), RIDE ON MOTORCYCLE 3 WHEEL (\$84.95), MAGIC CHEF 3.3 CUFT MINI FRIDGE (\$159.95), FUJI APPLE (\$1.59/lb), GREEN CABBAGE (\$.99/lb), MARY KITCHEN ROAST BEEF HASH (14 oz) (\$2.69), S&W WHOLE KERNEL CORN (14.5 oz) (\$.79/lb), BANQUET FRIED CHICKEN (29 oz) (\$8.79), ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY SOFT PRETZELS (13 oz) (\$2.99), STOUFFER'S FAMILY SIZE MEATLOAF W/ GRAVY (33 oz) (\$9.99), LIBBY'S CORNED BEEF (12 oz) (\$4.19), CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® CHUCK STEAK (\$5.99/lb), PORK BELLY SLICED (\$3.99/lb), and AUSSIE WALK-A-BOUT PORTABLE CHARCOAL GRILL (\$71.99). The bottom section features a 'Rewards' logo, a 'DOUBLE POINTS OF THE WEEK!' section with items like ORANGE NAVEL CHOICE, YELLOW ONIONS, CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF®, and EGGS, and a 'NOT YET A MEMBER? SIGN UP! IT'S FREE!' section.

**CNMI ESGR WEEK**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated third from left, is joined Monday by the CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee, CNMI Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Michael Sablan, CNMI Reservists, private sector partners, including Triple J Saipan and IT&E CNMI, some Cabinet members, and members of the Legislature, at the Office of the Governor's conference room after proclaiming this week as CNMI ESGR Week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam, CNMI youth congresses take first step toward collaboration

Members of the 33rd Guam Youth Congress met virtually with members of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress last Saturday, Aug. 14, for an introductory meeting. The two youth policy-making bodies, each varying in structure and composition, discussed collaborating on legislation, planning a regional youth con-

ference, and creating a long-term working relationship to benefit the youth of Guam and the CNMI.

"This historic meeting between the Guam and CNMI Youth Congress has been years in the making, and is a sign of a new collaboration that we hope will persist throughout the years," said Guam Youth

Speaker Stephanie Lorenzo. "With both Guam and CNMI's Youth Congress having a female speaker, it is our intent to continue our efforts of cooperation through dialogue and, in doing so, build a better connection between Guam and the CNMI."

CNMI Youth Congress Speaker Cielo Long de-

scribed the meeting as the first of many meetings both the CNMI and Guam youth congresses will hold throughout this term. "It was an honor to witness the collaborative efforts between all members, and I am ecstatic to serve as an example of teamwork beyond differences. Working relationships between two separate bodies is definitely possible," she added.

Representative Nolan Flores said the introductory meeting showcased the as yet untapped potential of working closely with the CNMI's regional

neighbors. "As youth, we must take the lead in combining our individual strengths and turning them into collective, meaningful action for all of the Marianas and the Pacific," Flores said.

Guam Youth Congress vice speaker Al Edrich Labang said he is grateful for the productive bilateral conversation with the CNMI Youth Congress, adding that there are many issues concerning the youth that both the Guam Youth Congress and the CNMI Youth Congress can tackle together. "Additionally, I commend speaker Stephanie Lorenzo

of the Guam Youth Congress and speaker Cielo Long of the CNMI Youth Congress for their commitment to strengthening our islands' relationship. As we further our relationship regionally, I look forward to connecting with our other neighbors in Micronesia."

As Guam's youth legislative body, the 33rd Youth Congress is composed of elected representatives from each of the island's villages and high schools. Representatives create, discuss, and pass bills, which are then introduced in the Guam Legislature. (PR)

SSA expands Compassionate Allowances program for those with severe disabilities

» Program expedites decisions for disability benefits

The Social Security Administration has expanded the severe disabilities covered under its Compassionate Allowances program, an initiative that quickly identifies severe medical conditions and diseases that meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits.

Acting Social Security commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi announced last week 12 new Compassionate Allowances conditions: Charlevoix Saganay Spastic Ataxia, or ARSACS, Choroid Plexus Carcinoma, CIC-rearranged Sarcoma, Congenital Zika Syndrome, Desmoplastic Mesothelioma, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy – Adult, Pericardial Mesothelioma, Refractory Hodgkin Lymphoma, Renpenning Syndrome, SCN8A Related Epilepsy with Encephalopathy, SYNGAP1-related NSID, and Taybi-Linder Syndrome.

"Everyone who is eligible for benefits under the programs we administer should receive them," said Kijakazi. "Our Compassionate Allowances program helps us

address barriers by helping accelerate the disability application process for people who are likely to get approved for benefits due to the severity of their medical condition."

The Compassionate Allowances program quickly identifies claims where the applicant's condition or disease clearly meets Social Security's statutory standard for disability. Due to the severe nature of many of these conditions, these claims are often allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone;

for example, certain cancers, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and a number of rare disorders that affect children. To date, more than 700,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this accelerated, policy-compliant disability process, which has grown to a total of 254 conditions.

When a person applies for

disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records in order to make an accurate determination. The agency incorporates leading technology to identify potential Compassionate Allowances cases and make quick decisions. Social Security's Health IT brings the speed and efficiency of electronic medical records to the disability determination process. With electronic records transmission, Social Security is able to quickly obtain a claimant's medical information, review it, and make a fast determination.

For more information about the program, including a list of all Compassionate Allowances conditions, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

To learn more about Social Security's Health IT program, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/.

People may apply online for disability benefits by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/.

To create a my Social Security account, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. (PR)



Members of the 33rd Guam Youth Congress met virtually with members of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress last Saturday, Aug. 14, for an introductory meeting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**NMC REGENTS**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torre, seated, poses with Charles V. Cepeda, standing second from left, and Zenie P. Mafnas, standing second from right, soon after administering their oath of office to once again serve on the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents last Monday at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Aetna Life Insurance is selected for GHLI program

The Department of Finance Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund announced yesterday the selection of Aetna Life Insurance Company to be the sole health carrier for the CNMI government.

This selection follows the

issuance of RFP21-GOV082 and a thorough evaluation and rating of submitted proposals.

"We are delighted to see the number of companies that submitted proposals to provide our active employ-

ees and retirees with critical health insurance coverage" said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I would like to thank the evaluation committee members for their due diligence in the process

and for ensuring that those here in the CNMI and abroad continue to receive quality healthcare services."

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig echoed Torres' sentiments, stating that the insurance companies' responses to the RFP were thorough and competitive.

"The committee went over all the requirements in the RFP, the proposals submitted, and discussed questions and concerns in order to select the best carrier to meet the needs of those in and outside the CNMI. The benefits coverage that was selected is considered to be the most

advantageous option for our government employees and retirees," he added.

Following the selection of the carrier, the Department of Finance Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund will announce the open enrollment period in the coming weeks. (PR)

Taste of the Marianas is pushing through

In order for the CNMI to continue to have new programs and activities, there is a need for everybody's effort to get herd community.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres emphasized this point last Friday when asked if the Taste of the Marianas will push through, considering concerns over the delta variant of COVID-19 in neighboring islands and states.

Torres said at a radio press briefing that he does not want to tell the community not to be concerned about the delta variant. There is a concern, he said, which is why it's important for everyone to get vaccinated.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo said Tuesday night that the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival that

is set for Aug. 27 to 29, will push through.

The Taste of the Marianas, which is MVA's biggest community event, was cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

Torres said the CNMI's neighboring islands and the states are closely monitoring the delta variant.

"Until we literally get our herd immunity, everybody will continue to be at risk," Torres pointed out.

The governor said the ad-

ministration is working hard to provide incentives for people to be vaccinated, but it's also a community effort. "We're almost there," said Torres, stressing that in order for the CNMI to open its doors and host events like the Taste of the Marianas, there is a need for everybody's effort to obtain herd immunity.

The governor said his take is, they'll wait for the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Warren Villagomez and Common-

wealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther M. Uña to give the direction. "Because they are the professionals. They got the doctors, they communicate with [the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] on a daily basis, maybe four times a day. And they are being updated on our issues here," Torres said.

He said if Villagomez and Muña come up and say that, based on the information they have, they have to postpone

the Taste of the Marianas, by all means they will have to postpone it.

"And if they said that on the risk factor, it's safe enough to continue, then let's celebrate," Torres said.

At any rate, Torres said, the most critical part is for the CNMI to continue to push for vaccination. "That is the key. And I won't stop emphasizing how important it is for our community to reach that goal," he said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB21-CHCC/GCG-SATR-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF 7-SEATS PASSENGER VAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/CUS-126**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"BOAT DIAGNOSTIC, ENGINE AND PARTS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. JOSE C. MAFNAS, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF CUSTOMS AND QUARANTINE, VIA PHONE AT 664-1610 OR EMAIL TO cnmicustoms@doe.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON /
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-MOTA-124**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"TINIAN TENNIS COURT RENOVATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, SAN JOSE VILLAGUE, TINIAN & THE TINIAN LIASON OFFICE, NAVY HILL RD., SAIPAN. A \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE FOR THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED.

A PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE INSPECTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS ON AUGUST 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AT THE PROJECT SITE, SAN JOSE, TINIAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. RAENA CABRERA, PROJECT MANAGER, VIA EMAIL TO rccm10@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 19, 2021. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1**

Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogumoro via email address yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary**

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parks and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576 or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or Joella Rosario, at 664-2575 or email at cccd.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit the cnmicclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/
Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Director

/S/
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The fall of Afghanistan: A sudden collapse years in the making

America's longest war is coming to an abrupt and messy end with images of helicopters over Kabul looking startling like the fall of Saigon when North Vietnamese forces took South Vietnam's capital in 1975 and overstuffed choppers hurriedly carried away the last of U.S. diplomatic, military and civilian personnel. Nothing symbolizes a superpower's hubris and impotency quite like leaving what was once a field of combat with tail between legs live on global television broadcasts.

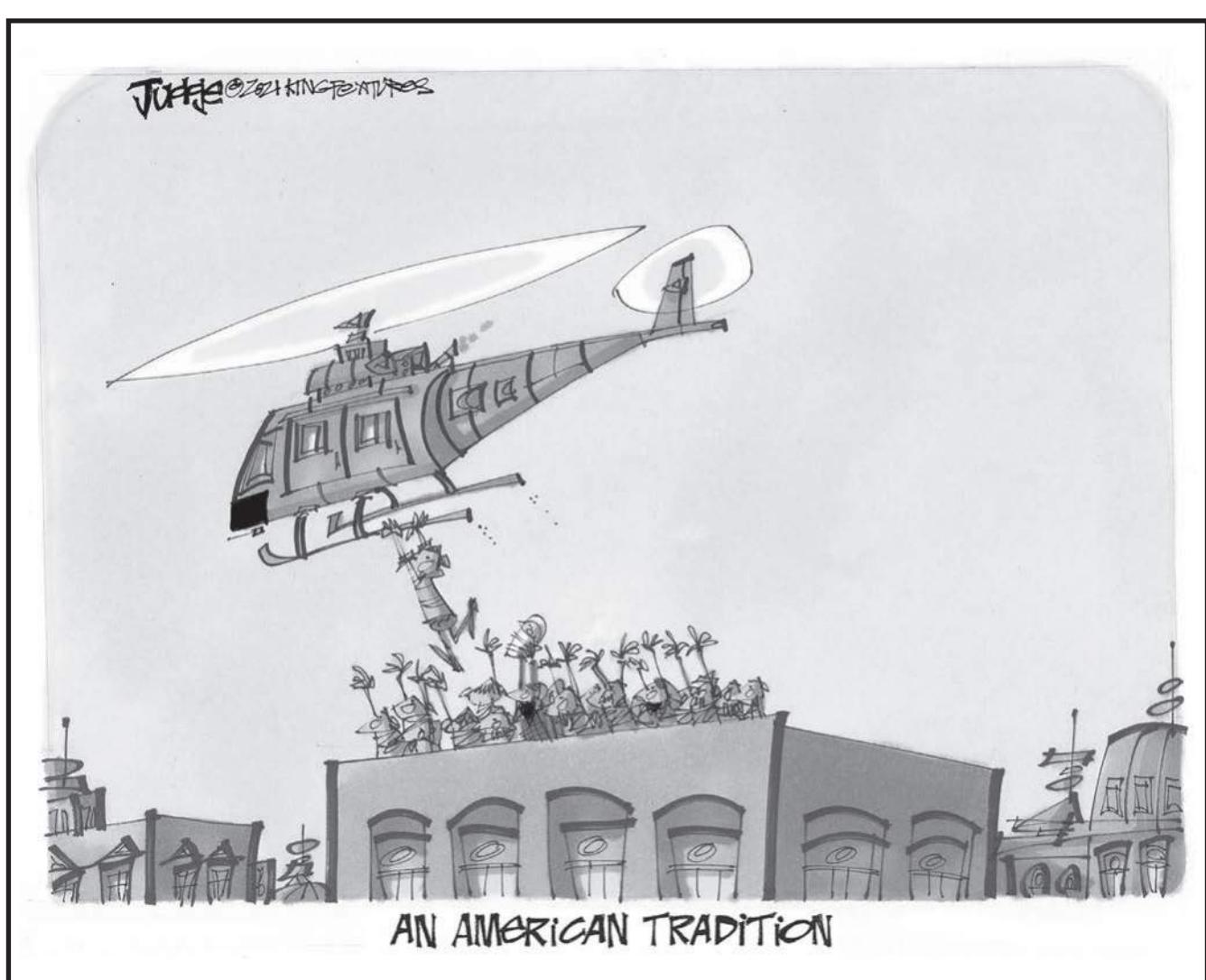
Making matters worse, President Joe Biden spoke to this very possibility in July, telling reporters that there "zero" parallels between the fall of Saigon and what was supposed to be an orderly drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Yet there were the helicopters circling the U.S. embassy, smoking billowing as sensitive documents were burned. The Afghan government fell. Taliban fighters occupied the presidential palace.

It did not take long for the long knives to come out nearly 7,000 miles away in Washington, D.C., as Republicans sought to pin the blame for this humiliation entirely on Biden while he and others in the administration saw it as chiefly inherited. The reality surely lies somewhere in between. Yes to GOP leaders who pointed out that the president's date-certain approach to pulling out troops was an invitation to trouble. But yes also to Biden who in a speech Monday afternoon reminded Americans that Afghan leaders fled the country and its military seemed wholly uninterested in putting up a fight. A decision was made that the United States had spilled enough blood and money in Afghanistan in a mission that had evolved from seeking justice for the 9/11 attacks, which U.S. forces did, to nation building, a role the U.S. military has failed before.

We do not seek to minimize Biden's part in this tragic dénouement but efforts to lay it entirely at the feet of his seven months in office are preposterous on their face. To hear former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tell it, one would believe that the Trump administration's 2020 deal with the Taliban to greatly reduce the U.S. military presence had no bearing whatsoever on these events. Yet it was the Trump administration's focus on troop withdrawal and ending "forever wars"—perhaps on top of miscalculations that the Afghan government and its military were prepared to stand on their own—that set President Biden up for failure. The only difference is whether the collapse happened now or later, over the course of days or perhaps months.

What Americans know for certain is that more than 3,000 of their countrymen died and more than \$1 trillion was spent in that distant country in the name of protecting the United States and making the world a better place. If the return of the Taliban means a return of al-Qaida or some equivalent terrorism organization that takes renewed aim at Western targets then today's recriminations will pale in comparison to those to come. al-Qaida terrorism attacks of recent years have been small in scale and mostly directed at targets in the Middle East. As it stands, the war in Afghanistan can't be regarded as

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With climate change, seemingly small shifts have big consequences

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By KEVIN TRENBERTH
National Center for Atmospheric Research



Climate change has been accumulating slowly but relentlessly for decades. The changes might sound small when you hear about them—another tenth of a degree warmer, another centimeter of sea level rise—but seemingly small changes can have big effects on the world around us, especially regionally.

The problem is that while effects are small at any time, they accumulate. Those effects have now accumulated to the point where their influence is contributing to damaging heat waves, drought and rainfall extremes that can't be ignored.

The most recent report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is more emphatic than ever: Climate change, caused by human activities like burning fossil fuels, is having damaging effects on the climate as we know it, and those effects are rapidly getting worse.

Earth's energy imbalance

An excellent example of how climate change accumulates is Earth's energy imbalance. I am a climate scientist and have a new book on this about to be published by Cambridge University Press.

The Sun bombards Earth with a constant stream of about 173,600 terawatts (that is 12 zeros) of energy in the form of solar radiation. About 30% of that energy is reflected back into space by clouds and reflective surfaces, like ice and snow, leaving 122,100 terawatts to drive all the weather and climate systems around us, including the water cycle. Almost all of that energy cycles back to space—except for about 460 TW.

That remaining 460 TW is the problem we're facing. That excess energy, trapped by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, is heating up the planet. That is the Earth's energy imbalance, or in other words, global warming.

In comparison with the natural flow of energy through the climate system, 460 TW seems small—it's only a fraction of 1 percent. Consequently, we cannot go outside and feel the extra energy. But the heat accumulates, and it is now having consequences.

To put that in perspective, the total amount of electricity generated worldwide in 2018 was about 2.6 TW. If you look at all

energy used around the world, including for heat, industry and vehicles, it's about 19.5 TW. Earth's energy imbalance is huge in comparison.

Interfering with the natural flow of energy through the climate system is where humans make their mark. By burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and releasing greenhouse gases in other ways, humans are sending gases like carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere that trap more of that incoming energy rather than letting it radiate back out.

Before the first industries began burning large amounts of fossil fuels in the 1800s, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was estimated at around 280 parts per million of volume. In 1958, when Dave Keeling began measuring atmospheric concentrations at Mauna Loa in Hawaii, that level was 310 parts per million. Today, those values have climbed to about 415 parts per million, a 48% increase.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, and increased amounts cause heating. In this case, the human increment is not small.

Where does the extra energy go?

Measurements over time show that over 90% of this extra energy is going into the oceans, where it causes the water to expand and sea level to rise.

The upper layer of the oceans started warming around the 1970s. By the early 1990s, heat was reaching 500 to 1,000 meters (1,640 to 3,280 feet) deep. By 2005, it was heating the ocean below 1,500 meters (nearly 5,000 feet).

Global sea level, measured by flights and satellites, was rising at a rate of about 3 millimeters per year from 1992 to 2012. Since then, it has been increasing at about 4 millimeters a year. In 29 years, it has risen over 90 millimeters (3.5 inches).

If 3.5 inches doesn't sound like much, talk to the coastal

See CLIMATE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Afghanistan's rapid fall casts cloud over Biden's entire administration

When President Joe Biden announced last April he would withdraw the last U.S. troops from Afghanistan, he pledged to do it "responsibly, deliberately and safely" while that country's U.S.-trained forces "continue to fight valiantly" for the freedom of the Afghan people.

Just weeks ago, Biden said the drawdown was "proceeding in a secure and orderly way," rejecting any comparison with the hasty 1975 U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. He called a quick Taliban takeover of the country "highly unlikely."

Now, Biden's words seem out of touch with reality as chaotic scenes in Kabul unfold on American television, illustrating the collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban's stunningly rapid takeover. It's cast a cloud over his entire administration.

The president did concede in a White House speech Monday that "this did unfold more quickly than we had anticipated." But he insisted "we planned for every contingency" and strongly defended his decision to withdraw, noting "American troops cannot and should not be fighting in a war and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves."

More importantly, though, he failed to explain why, despite weeks of planning meetings, his administration was so unprepared for the human, military and geopolitical disaster unfolding in Afghanistan.

While he proclaimed "the buck stops with me" as president, he portrayed himself as constrained by former President Donald Trump's May 1 withdrawal date and the Afghan government's pleas to slow withdrawal of Afghans with U.S. ties to avoid a panic.

The irony of the situation is that Biden, reflecting views he has held for years, made the difficult decision to implement the long-overdue end of the two-decade U.S. role in Afghanistan, but he undercut the efficacy of his own action with his administration's inept management.

As Biden noted Monday, the way this unfolded underscored the fact that two decades of American support—billions in military and financial aid, plus thousands of lives—failed to give Afghans what they needed most: the will to fight for their independence.

In essence, it mirrored the similar American miscalculation in Vietnam a half century ago: the limits to U.S. nation-building abilities, no matter how good its intentions or mighty its sword.

In a more immediate sense, the events of the past week un-

dercut the Biden administration's carefully crafted portrayal of a government that combined a return to competence and normalcy at home with a reestablished leadership role abroad.

Initial judgments about the ultimate impact of seemingly cataclysmic events often prove exaggerated. But the bipartisan congressional criticism indicated Biden, at the least, has created doubts that could fester about his overall leadership, especially in the foreign policy area that was his reputed strength.

The more immediate political impact remains to be seen. Before last weekend, polls showed strong support for Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, including a majority of Republicans.

Initial post-decision sampling by Morning Consult shows a sharp drop, especially among Republicans and independents, and Republicans clearly hope to use this to weaken Biden more broadly, though the withdrawal ratified his GOP predecessor's decision.

That linkage was stressed by Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a traditional Republican hard-liner and Trump critic whose father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, was a key architect of the initial 2001 U.S. assault on Afghanistan.

"The Trump/Biden calamity unfolding in Afghanistan began with the Trump administration negotiating with terrorists and pretending they were partners for peace and is ending with American surrender as Biden abandons the country to our terrorist enemies," she tweeted, citing Trump's initiation of talks with the Taliban—including a quickly withdrawn invitation to Camp David.

There is plenty of blame to go around.

It was President George W. Bush who turned the widely supported, bipartisan 2001 effort to destroy Afghanistan as a terrorist haven after al-Qaida's 9/11 attacks into a nation-building effort of the sort he disdained when running for president in 2000.

"I don't think our troops ought to be used for what's called nation-building," Bush said during a televised debate that fall. "I think our troops ought to be used to fight and win war."

But Bush expanded the anti-terrorist campaign into an effort to create a democratic Afghanistan, and he launched a second military campaign to oust Iraq's longtime dictator, Saddam Hussein.

Later, President Barack Obama, while completing the withdrawal from Iraq that Bush began under congressional pressure, mounted a renewed effort to turn the tide in Afghanistan, over then Vice President Biden's opposition. It failed. Fighting con-

tinued, with a lower level of U.S. casualties.

Trump sharply cut U.S. troop strength and, after his peace effort stalled, announced he would withdraw the rest by May 1. That's the decision Biden inherited, though he revised the timetable to complete the withdrawal just before next month's 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that prompted the initial U.S. attack.

His hope was to celebrate on Sept. 11 both the success of the initial attacks to deter terrorism—culminating in the 2011 killing of Osama bin Laden—and the ending of the ensuing U.S. mission. Now, it's likely to focus as much on how ineptly he did it—and how quickly the terrorists may return.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A matter of life or death

COVID-19 and the delta variant continue to surge. This is frightening news. I'd like to remind our congressional lawmakers this is not a Democrat/Republican conspiracy. This is not a religious conspiracy. We're fighting a toxic pandemic so our congressional lawmakers must stop grandstanding (aka campaigning) and listen to science and the medical profession. Forget about parents making their children wear masks or not, get vaccinated or not. We as adults have rights to be sure, but that doesn't give us the right to put people and youngsters at risk by not getting vaccinated and not wearing masks. This is a rare instance where science and the medical community are asking us to simply wear masks and get vaccinated, thereby protecting yourself and your neighbors from infection. Indeed, it really is a matter of life or death!

Herb Stark

Mooresville, NC

Extreme events in weather have always occurred, but human influences are now pushing them outside their previous limits.

The straw that breaks the camel's back syndrome

So, while all weather events are driven by natural influences, the impacts are greatly magnified by human-induced climate change. Hurricanes cross thresholds, levees break and floods run amok. Elsewhere, fires burn out of control, things break and people die.

I call it "The straw that breaks the camel's back syndrome." This is extreme nonlinearity, meaning the risks aren't rising in a straight line—they're rising much faster, and it confounds economists who have greatly underestimated the costs of human-induced climate change.

The result has been far too little action both in slowing and stopping the problems, and in planning for impacts and building resilience—despite years of warnings from scientists. The lack of adequate planning means we all suffer the consequences.

Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/with-climate-change-seemingly-small-shifts-have-big-consequences-166139>

CLIMATE

From Page 8

communities that exist a few feet above sea level. In some regions, these effects have led to chronic sunny day flooding during high tides, like Miami, San Francisco and Venice, Italy. Coastal storm surges are higher and much more destructive, especially from hurricanes. It's an existential threat to some low-lying island nations and a growing expense for U.S. coastal cities.

Some of that extra energy, about 13 terawatts, goes into melting ice. Arctic sea ice in summer has decreased by over 40% since 1979. Some excess energy melts land ice, such as glaciers and permafrost on Greenland, Antarctica, which puts more water into the ocean and contributes to sea level rise.

Some energy penetrates into land, about 14 TW. But as long as land is wet, a lot of energy cycles into evapotranspiration—evaporation and transpiration in plants—which moistens the atmosphere and fuels weather systems. It is when there is a drought or during the dry season that effects accumulate on land, through

drying and wilting of plants, raising temperatures and greatly increasing risk of heat waves and wildfire.

Consequences of more heat

Over oceans, the extra heat provides a tremendous resource of moisture for the atmosphere. That becomes latent heat in storms that supersizes hurricanes and rainstorms, leading to flooding, as people in many parts of the world have experienced in recent months.

Air can contain about 4% more moisture for every 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.55 Celsius) increase in temperature, and air above the oceans is some 5% to 15% moister than it was prior to 1970. Hence, about a 10% increase in heavy rain results as storms gather the excess moisture.

Again, this may not sound like much, but that increase enlivens the updrafts and the storms, and then the storm lasts longer, so suddenly there is a 30% increase in the rainfall, as has been documented in several cases of major flooding.

In Mediterranean climates, characterized by long, dry summers, such as in California, eastern Australia and around the Mediterranean, the wildfire risk grows, and fires can be readily triggered by natural sources, like dry lightning, or human causes.

to assemble a bipartisan commission to review the events of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, we hold out little hope that politicians will produce a meaningful review. It may take some time to get past the current finger-pointing but perhaps the ultimate lesson will be about the limits of military power. Yet wasn't that the lesson of Vietnam? Simply arming, advising and fighting on behalf of an ineffective and corrupt government does not provide sustainable benefit. A dysfunctional government is still a dysfunctional government. After that, the only choice is to, as critics of the Vietnam War so often pointed out, either bomb your enemy to the Stone Age or cut your losses and run. And so un-

headed history repeats itself.

One way or the other, it is difficult not to feel deeply discouraged about these events. A lot of Maryland families made terrible sacrifices for this war. Many continue to do so. To see the brutal Taliban rise again, to know what it means for women in that country or specifically for those individuals who assisted U.S. military as noncombatants but were not evacuated in time, that will raise the inevitable question: Was it all worth it? Those who claim to be certain of the answer perhaps aren't paying close enough attention.

FALL

From Page 8

a complete failure given the fate of Osama bin Laden and other 9/11 plotters. The effort to lead that country toward a more economically and politically stable ally of the West? That appears to be the disaster.

In time, the U.S. will need to study the mistakes of these two decades in Afghanistan to better inform military and foreign policy choices in the future. Given how Congress was unable

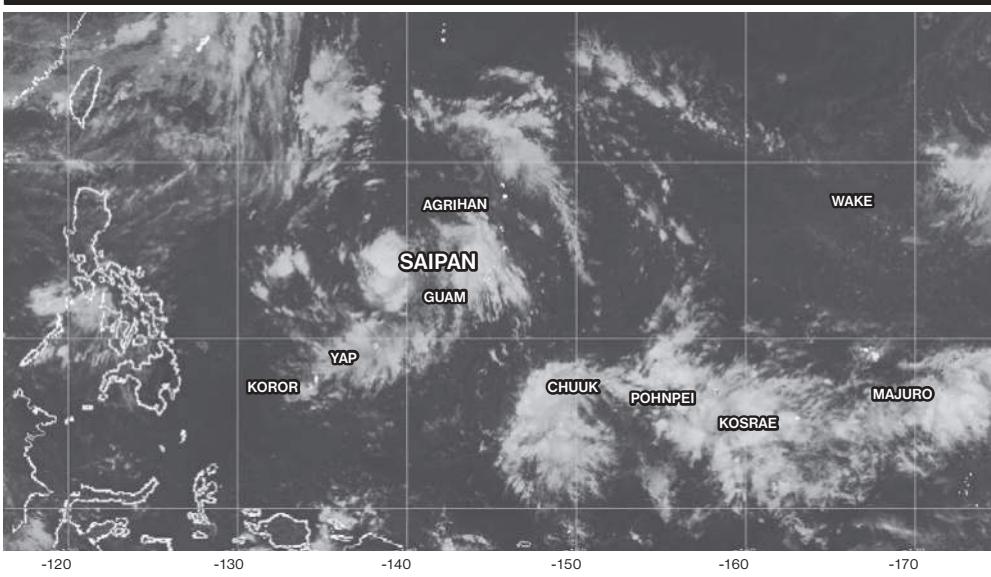


The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
87°	77°	86°	76°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters, in southeast trade-wind flow. Satellite shows the remains of Tropical Depression 16W west of the islands, and an upper-level low to the northeast, near 20N149E. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-coverings.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	81 / 91 °F
Palau	Afternoon clouds	82 / 86 °F
Yap	Heavy rain	81 / 90 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	81 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Heavy rain	78 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Sunny	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	79 / 85 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:24 AM	3:59 PM
Friday	-	3:26 AM	4:58 PM
Saturday	-	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	-	5:29 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	-	6:27 AM	7:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	48 / 52 °F
Beijing	Sunny	75 / 91 °F
Hong Kong	Strong thunderstorms	81 / 86 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	75 / 84 °F
London	Sunny	53 / 67 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	61 / 78 °F
Manila	Rain showers	79 / 85 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	47 / 55 °F
Miami	Cloudy	82 / 89 °F
New York	Partly sunny	77 / 84 °F
Osaka	High level clouds	71 / 94 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	51 / 68 °F
Pusan	Scattered clouds	78 / 91 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	61 / 88 °F
Salem	Morning clouds	56 / 80 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 68 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	76 / 92 °F
Tokyo	Afternoon clouds	78 / 92 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	74 / 91 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET	
3:28 AM	High Tide 1.97
11:12 AM	Low Tide -0.17
6:41 PM	High Tide 1.95
11:46 PM	Low Tide 1.40

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am 2, 4, 5, 7				UA174 4:50am 5:50am 1, 3, 6			
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 3, 6				UA174 7:30am 8:11am 2, 4, 5, 7			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:30am 8:50pm 2, 5 via Guam				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:50am+1 2, 5 via Guam			
UA117/183 6:30am 9:10pm 3, 6, 7 via Guam				UA184/174 10:25pm 8:11am+1 3, 6, 7 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 6:55pm 8:50pm 2, 5				UA184 9:50pm 4:00am+1 2, 5			
UA183 7:15pm 9:10pm 3, 6, 7				UA184 10:25pm 4:40am+1 3, 6, 7			

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

<tbl

Business

Bank of Guam's 2020 Year in Review earns int'l honors

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam's 2020 Year in Review has won honors at the 35th International Annual Report Competition organized by MerComm International annually.

This is the fourth time that the bank has been recognized for excellence in the contest,

» Honors are bank's fourth year of recognition

which is the world's largest international competition honoring excellence in annual reports from corporations, small companies, government agencies, nonprofit organizations,

and associations.

The 2021 competition saw 1,700 companies competing this year from 35 countries around the world.

"We are deeply proud that talent from our region continues to be recognized worldwide among many categories," said Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive offi-

cer. "The 2020 Year in Review speaks to the theme, 'What Does Hope Look Like' and illustrates the many ways that our community is resilient, adaptable, compassionate, and grateful. Those qualities remain the foundation of our people and our islands meeting global challenges together and with purpose."

Jackie Marati, the bank's senior vice president/chief communications and corporate social responsibility officer, added, "We continue to be encouraged by our team who consistently produces outstanding communication pieces and are humbled by the international recognition, and validation we just received. The message of hope is universal and underlies the very value that has sustained us all during this time."

The award-winning publication can be viewed on www.bankofguam.com under Investor Relations, Annual Reports 2021. (PR)

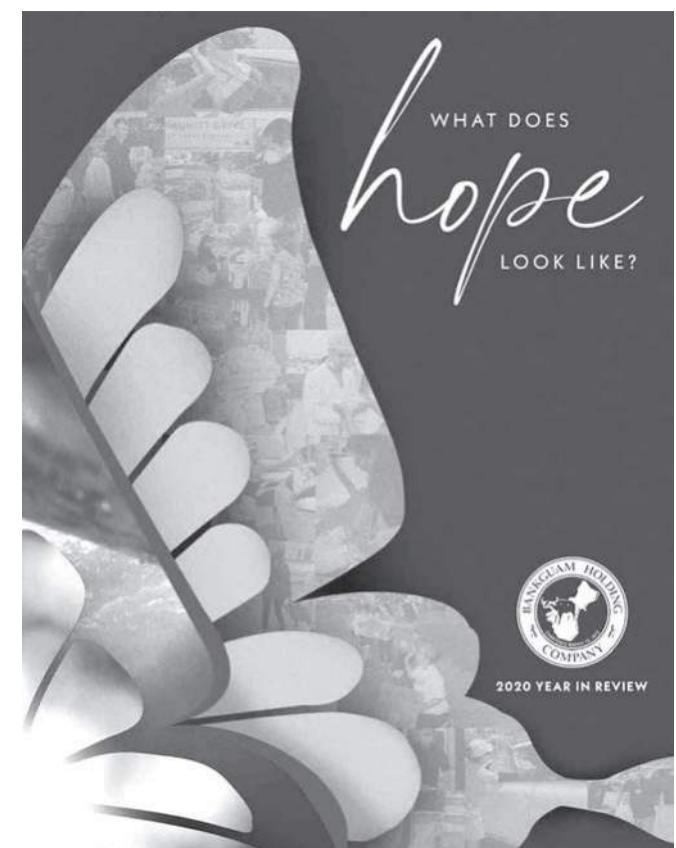


Photo shows the cover of Bank of Guam's 2020 Year in Review. The award-winning publication can be viewed on www.bankofguam.com under Investor Relations, Annual Reports 2021.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

No shot, no proof, no service: NYC businesses begin checks

NEW YORK (AP)—People dining indoors at New York City's restaurants, browsing its museums or sweating in its gyms had to show proof Tuesday that they were at least partially inoculated against COVID-19 as the city began the nation's largest effort yet to exclude the unvaccinated from public places.

Signs on the front door and windows of The Stop Inn, a Queens diner, warned patrons arriving for breakfast that they had to show proof of at least one vaccine shot to be allowed to dine inside.

Still, Norbu Lama, 17, said he was surprised when a server politely asked for his vaccination card soon after he slid into a booth with his parents and sister.

"We didn't know we had to bring it," he said. The server appeared relieved when Lama and his family presented copies of their vaccination cards on their phone, Lama said.

The vaccination mandate, announced two weeks ago by Mayor Bill de Blasio, aims to persuade more people to get vaccinated or else miss out on city amenities like restaurants and bars, movie theaters, bowling alleys, concert halls, indoor sports arenas, and other entertainment venues.

Employees of those businesses also must be vaccinated, with holdouts facing the possibility of being fired if they refuse.

The measures are also fraught with complications, as restaurant servers, bar-

tenders and ticket agents become the frontline enforcers for vaccination rules. Skittish about losing business, but mindful that another economic shutdown could be disastrous, some restaurant and bar owners are embracing the mandates as a way to control the virus and keep their doors open.

Others—particularly in parts of the city where people have resisted getting the vaccine—worry it will be a fatal blow to businesses that were prevented for months last year from serving patrons indoors.

"We do not want to go back to restrictions," de Blasio said at a virtual news conference Tuesday. "The key to our progress is vaccination."



A Katz's Deli employee, left, checks the proof of vaccination from customers who will be eating inside the restaurant, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, in New York.

Powell: No returning to pre-pandemic economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday that the U.S. economy has been permanently changed by the COVID pandemic and it is important that the central bank adapt to those changes.

"We're not simply going back to the economy that we had before the pandemic," Powell said at a Fed virtual town hall for educators and students. "We need to watch carefully as the econo-

my continues to get through the pandemic and try to understand the ways that the economy has changed and what the implications are for our policy."

Powell said that, while it is not yet clear if the delta variant of COVID will have further impact on the economy, the country has already seen significant changes since the pandemic began shutting the country down in March 2020.

Those changes range from

the increase in remote work, to restaurants offering more take-out meals, to real estate agents learning to show homes virtually, he noted. Many companies have already made large investments in technology to adapt to the challenges that the pandemic has presented.

"It seems a near certainty



Powell

that there will be substantially more remote work going forward," Powell said. "That's going to change the nature of work and the way work gets done."

Powell said the heavy investment by companies in new technology means there will be more jobs in the future associated with maintaining that technology but also potential job losses in industries focused

on in-person contact. He said some of those industries may be moving to an "automated, no-contact model."

This trend is already showing up in the jobs data, with the recovery slower in industries that rely on public interaction, such as travel, leisure and hospitality. Those are jobs disproportionately held by women and people of color and typically pay lower wages, Powell noted.

"It may be that some of these people will have a harder time finding their way back into the

workforce without more education and training," he said. He said there are millions of people who have lost service sector jobs and remain out of work and need to be supported. "That's a part of the recovery that's far from complete," he said.

Speaking to the audience of students and educators, Powell said the pandemic could turn out to be an historical inflection point that will allow the current generation of students to turn the lessons learned into "profound tools of change."

Nation

Fueled by winds, largest wildfire moves near California city

GRIZZLY FLATS, Calif. (AP)—A wildfire raged through a small Northern California forest town Tuesday, burning dozens of homes as dangerously dry and windy weather also continued to fuel other massive blazes and prompted the nation's largest utility to begin shutting off power to 51,000 customers.

The Caldor fire in the northern Sierra Nevada had burned an estimated 50 homes in and around Grizzly Flats, a town of about 1,200 people, fire officials said at a community meeting.

Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for El Dorado County because of the blaze, which tripled in size between Monday and Tuesday afternoon to nearly 50 square miles (129 square kilometers).

To the north the Dixie Fire—the largest of some 100 active wildfires in more than a dozen Western states—was advancing toward Susanville, population about 18,000.

Meanwhile, Pacific Gas & Electric announced it had begun shutting off power to some 51,000 customers in small portions of 18 northern counties to prevent winds from knocking down or fouling power lines and sparking new blazes.

The utility said the precautionary shutoffs were focused in the Sierra Nevada foothills, the North Coast, the North Valley and the North Bay mountains and could last into Wednesday afternoon.

Taliban allowing 'safe passage' from Kabul in US airlift

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Taliban have agreed to allow “safe passage” from Afghanistan for civilians struggling to join a U.S.-directed airlift from the capital, President Joe Biden’s national security adviser said Tuesday, although a timetable for completing the evacuation of Americans, Afghan allies and others has yet to be worked out with the country’s new rulers.



Sullivan

Jake Sullivan acknowledged reports that some civilians were encountering resistance—“being turned away or pushed back or even beaten”—as they tried to reach the Kabul international airport. But he said “very large numbers” were reaching the airport and the problem of the others was being taken up with the Taliban, whose stunningly swift takeover of the country on Sunday plunged the U.S. evacuation effort into chaos, confusion and violence.

Pentagon officials said that after interruptions on Monday, the airlift was back on track and being accelerated despite weather problems, amid regular communication with Taliban leaders. Additional U.S. troops arrived and more were on the way, with a total of more than 6,000 expected to be involved in securing the airport in coming days.



A vehicle and property were destroyed by the Caldor Fire sit in Grizzly Flats, Calif., on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021.

AP PHOTO/ETHAN SWOPE

Very few homes were left standing in Grizzly Flats, where streets were littered with downed power lines and poles. Houses were reduced to smoldering ash and twisted metal with only chimneys rising above the ruins. A post office and elementary school were also destroyed.

Two people with serious or severe injuries were airlifted to hospitals from the Grizzly Flats area, fire officials said.

Derek Shaves and Tracy Jackson were helping their friend salvage food and other supplies from the Grizzly Pub & Grub, a business

in the evacuation zone that wasn’t touched by the blaze.

Shaves said he visited Grizzly Flats Tuesday and saw his home and most of the houses in his neighborhood had been destroyed by the fire.

“It’s a pile of ash,” he said. “Everybody on my block is a pile of ash and

every block that I visited—but for five separate homes that were safe—was totally devastated.”

At the Dixie Fire, numerous resources were put into the Susanville area, where residents were warned to be ready to evacuate, said Mark Brunton, an operations section chief.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas governor tests positive for COVID-19, in ‘good health’

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, according to his office, who said the Republican is in good health and experiencing no symptoms. Abbott, who was vaccinated in December and has refused calls to reinstate mask mandates as the highly contagious delta variant surges in Texas, was isolating in the governor’s mansion in Austin and receiving monoclonal antibody treatment, spokesman Mark Miner said in a statement. He is at least the 11th governor to test positive for the virus since the pandemic began, according to a tally by The Associated Press. “Governor Abbott is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, in good health, and currently experiencing no symptoms. Everyone that the Governor has been in close contact with today has been notified,” Miner said. In a video posted on social media, Abbott said the fact that he had been fully vaccinated “may be one reason I’m really not feeling any symptoms right now. I have no fever, no aches and pains, no other types of symptoms.”

US agencies scrub websites to protect Afghans left behind

WASHINGTON (AP)—Multiple federal agencies that operated in Afghanistan and worked with Afghan citizens have been hastily purging their websites, removing articles and photos that could endanger the Afghan civilians who interacted with them and now fear retribution from the Taliban. The online scrubbing campaign appeared to begin late last week when it became clear that the Afghan security forces had completely collapsed and the Taliban would take over the country far faster than even the most alarmist official predictions. The concern is that the Taliban or its supporters would search the websites and identify Afghans who had worked with the Americans or merely benefited from their services. State Department Spokesman Ned Price said the department was advising personnel to search for and remove social media and website content featuring civilians because the safety of Afghan contacts “is of utmost importance” to the government.

Sheriff: Arrest in ‘92 cold case death of baby girl in river

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP)—Nearly 30 years after an infant girl’s stabbed body was found floating on a South Carolina river, authorities announced the arrest Tuesday of the child’s mother and said she has been charged in the death. Stacy Michelle Costner Rabon, 48, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, faces a charge of homicide by child abuse in connection with the girl’s death in August 1992, news outlets reported. Only hours old when she died, the

child was found wrapped in a bedsheet inside a plastic grocery bag that was discovered by a swimmer on the Catawba River, officials said. Authorities said the child had stab wounds but a coroner’s report determined that the death was the result of suffocation—not drowning or the stabbings. Detectives reexamined the case last October and submitted DNA from the bed sheet to the York County Forensic Biology Lab for testing. Results identified Rabon as a suspect and deputies were eventually able to obtain a warrant for her arrest, authorities said.

Ex-Nevada inmate gets life for 1984 Colorado hammer killings

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—A former Nevada prison inmate was sentenced Tuesday to three consecutive life sentences in the long-unsolved 1984 hammer killings of three Colorado family members, including a 7-year-old girl, inside their suburban Denver home. Sixty-one-year-old Alex Ewing was convicted Aug. 6 of first-degree murder after a two-day trial in which prosecutors contended Ewing used a hammer and a knife to kill Bruce Bennett, 27, his wife, Debra, 26, and daughter Melissa in the Bennetts’ home. Melissa Bennett also was raped, prosecutors said. Another daughter, 3-year-old Vanessa, was beaten in the head with a hammer as were her parents and sister but survived the attack. Ewing is also charged with the hammer killing of Patricia Louise Smith, 50, in her home in suburban Lakewood about a week before the Aurora killings. Smith also was sexually assaulted. Ewing’s trial in that case is set for October.

Virus outbreaks temporarily close 4 Texas school districts

HOUSTON (AP)—As the new school year begins for Texas students and mask mandates are debated in various state courts, at least four school districts have already closed campuses due to COVID-19 outbreaks. The shutdowns are taking place as more school districts and communities continued this week to defy Gov. Greg Abbott’s ban on mask mandates and require students and residents to wear face coverings. Tuesday afternoon, Abbott’s office announced he had tested positive for COVID-19. Abbott, who is vaccinated, was experiencing no symptoms. The school district in Gorman, located about 70 miles (112.65 kilometers) east of Abilene, had been set to begin the new school year on Wednesday but is now delaying that by a week “due to positive COVID cases within the school community of both faculty and students,” Superintendent Mike Winter said in a statement.

Asia

Taliban vow to respect women, despite a history of oppression

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban vowed Tuesday to respect women's rights, forgive those who fought them and ensure Afghanistan does not become a haven for terrorists as part of a publicity blitz aimed at reassuring world powers and a fearful population.

Following a lightning offensive across Afghanistan that saw many cities fall to the insurgents without a fight, the Taliban have sought to portray themselves as more moderate than when they imposed a strict form of Islamic rule in the late 1990s. But many Afghans remain skeptical—and thousands have raced to the airport, desperate to flee the country.

Older generations remember the Taliban's previous rule, when they largely confined women to their homes, banned television and music, and held public executions. A U.S.-led invasion drove them from power months after the 9/11 attacks, which al-Qaida had orchestrated from Afghanistan while being sheltered by the Taliban.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's longtime spokesman, emerged from the shadows Tuesday in his first-ever public appearance to address those concerns at a news conference.

He promised the Taliban would honor women's rights within the norms of Islamic law, without elaborating. The Taliban have encouraged women to return to work and



Mujahid



Afghan citizens pack inside a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, as they are transported from Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

CAPT. CHRIS HERBERT/U.S. AIR FORCE VIA AP

have allowed girls to return to school, handing out Islamic headscarves at the door. A few

lowed women to drive.

Mujahid also said the Taliban would not allow Afghanistan to be used as a base for attacking other countries, as it was in the years before 9/11. That assurance was part of a 2020 peace deal reached between the Taliban and the Trump administration that paved the way for the American withdrawal.

The treatment of women varies widely across the Muslim world and sometimes even within the same country, with rural areas tending to be far more conservative. Some Muslim countries, including neighboring Pakistan, have had female prime ministers, while ultraconservative Saudi Arabia only recently al-

The Pentagon said U.S. commanders are communicating with the Taliban as they work to evacuate thousands of people through Kabul's international airport. It said the Taliban have taken no hostile actions there.

NZ on lockdown after 1 virus case found

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's government took drastic action Tuesday by putting the entire nation into a strict lockdown for at least three days after finding a single case of coronavirus infection in the community.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern invoked some of the stirring rhetoric she used early in the pandemic by urging the "team of 5 million"—New Zealand's population—to go hard and early in trying to eliminate the latest outbreak.

"We have seen what happens elsewhere if we fail to get on top of it," Ardern said. "We only get one chance."

She said Auckland, where the infected man lives, and Coromandel, where he had visited, would go into a full lockdown

for seven days and the remainder of the country for three days while health experts tried to find the source of his infection.

The developments prompted people to line up outside supermarkets to stock up on essential items and sparked a sharp drop in the value of the New Zealand dollar.

New Zealand had managed to stamp out the virus, and the last outbreak was in February. But Ardern had been warning that the contagiousness of the delta variant would likely require more drastic action than previous outbreaks.

New Zealand has also been slower than other developed nations to inoculate its population, leaving it vulnerable to outbreaks. Only 32% of people have had at least one shot

and 18% are fully vaccinated.

And officials have been viewing a growing outbreak in nearby Sydney with alarm, saying they don't want to make the same mistakes by waiting too long to impose strict measures.

Health officials said genome testing would not verify until Wednesday whether the infected 58-year-old man had the delta variant, although they were working under the assumption he does.

Officials said they could not immediately find a connection between the man and the handful of people who have tested positive while isolating in quarantine after arriving from abroad. The border is seen as the most likely source of any outbreaks.

World

Death toll from Haiti tremblor rises to 1,941

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)—Haitian officials raised the death toll from a deadly weekend earthquake by more than 500 on Tuesday after Tropical Storm Grace forced a temporary halt to search and rescue efforts, a delay that fed growing anger and frustration among thousands who were left homeless.

Grace battered southwestern Haiti, which was hit hardest by Saturday's quake, and officials warned some areas could get 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain before the storm moved on. Intermittent rain fell in the earthquake-damaged city of Les Cayes and in the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the Civil Protection Agency raised the death toll to 1,941 and the number of injured to 9,900, many of whom have had to wait for medical help lying outside in wilting heat.

The devastation is centered in the country's southwestern area, where health care has reached capacity and people have lost homes



AP
A man walks on the rubble of a collapsed hotel the morning after Tropical Storm Grace swept over Port Salut, Haiti, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, three days after a 7.2 magnitude quake.

and loved ones.

Patience was running out in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Haitians already were struggling with the coronavirus, gang violence, worsening poverty and the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse when the quake hit.

Bodies continued to be pulled from the rubble, and the smell of death hung heavily over a pancaked, three-story apartment building. A simple bed sheet covered the body of a 3-year-old girl

that firefighters had found an hour earlier.

Neighbor Joseph Boyer, 53, said he knew the girl's family.

"The mother and father are in the hospital, but all three kids died," he said. The bodies of the other two siblings were found earlier.

Illustrating the lack of government presence, volunteer firefighters from the nearby city of Cap-Haitien had left the body out in the rain because police have to be present before a body can be taken away.

1,150 flee Colombia village that is caught between two armed groups

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—At least 1,150 people fled their homes in Colombia's Choco province over the weekend to escape fighting between leftist insurgents and a paramilitary group that is expanding its grip on the region, the nation's Human Rights Ombudsman said Tuesday.

In a statement, the agency said armed men identifying themselves as members of the Gaitanista Self Defense Forces of Colombia had entered the riverside village of Dipurdú del

Guasimo last week and interrogated residents while spray painting buildings with their group's initials.

A few days later, the agency said, fighting broke out between the Gaitanistas and the National Liberation Army guerrilla group, causing residents to flee to nearby villages in Choco, a province that is mostly inhabited by AfroColombians and Indigenous people.

The agency said the people who left Dipurdú del Guasimo are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The area has few roads and most villages can be reached only through river transport.

The government is struggling to control isolated rural areas where armed groups are fighting over illegal gold mines and drug trafficking routes abandoned by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, once the country's biggest rebel movement that signed a peace deal in 2016 and disbanded.

Pope appears in video promoting vaccination

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis is adding his voice to a campaign to overcome vaccine skepticism, issuing a public service announcement insisting that vaccines are safe, effective and an "act of love."

The video message released Wednesday is aimed at a global audience but directed particularly at the Americas. It features six cardinals and archbishops from North, Central and South America as well as the Argentine-born

pope. It was produced by the Vatican and the Ad Council, which has produced a series of pro-vaccine ads in a bid to get more people vaccinated.

In his comments, Francis said: "Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love."

He added: "Vaccination is a simple but profound way of

promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable."

Francis had emphasized at the start of the pandemic the need to ensure equal access to the vaccine, especially for the poor. But faced with increasing skepticism about vaccines especially among religious conservatives, the Vatican has vowed an all-out effort to overcome hesitancy and encourage widespread vaccination.

Environment

What are the most dumped materials at the Marpi landfill?

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Old corrugated cardboard and other fibers make up the largest amount of waste dumped at the Marpi landfill. What's next? Organics, mostly food waste.

A Department of Public Works study on solid waste management prepared by GHD Inc. for the CNMI government in December 2019 showed that half of the wastes that are dumped at the landfill are these items, where, in terms of weighted mean, 16.2% are cardboard, 17.1% are other fiber materials, and 14.9% are other organics.

What does this tell us? This means that most of the solid wastes we generate here are biodegradable, and can actually be composted or recycled. Simply put, if managed properly, these materials need not be in the landfill.

A quarter of the wastes that go to the landfill include construction and demolition materials, clothing and shoes, and dirt and other bulky items. Plastics, on the other hand, make up a collective 16% of the wastes that are dumped at the landfill. These include PET and HDPE bottles, bags and film, and mixed plastics.

Metals and glass combined go for 11%, with these types of trash: alu-

minum cans and utensils, food cans, glass bottles and containers, window and sheet glass, ceramic toilets, and other glass and ceramic items.

Again, these are almost all recoverable, if managed properly.

This is critical because on a small island like Saipan, land is an exceedingly precious resource.

In an earlier interview, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality environmental specialist Marilyn Naputi emphasized that the lifespan of Saipan's only landfill is a major issue that ties directly with proper solid waste management. To extend the lifespan of the Marpi landfill, waste reduction and recycling is key, she said.

To date, the landfill's cell 1, the largest and which people in the CNMI have been using for 18 years now, since 2003, is on the brink of reaching its maximum 206-foot capacity. Cell 2, projected to be good for 15 years, will be used next.

The study stated that with Marpi landfill integral to the island's solid waste disposal capacity, Saipan should consider strategies to divert these recoverable wastes from the landfill.

Waste sort what?

A waste sort is when one sorts and analyzes the actual amount of each different type of material that are in

the incoming waste, in the case of the landfill.

In your home, for example, you can do a waste sort by sorting all the materials that are in your waste bin, segregating them according to type—paper and cardboard, plastic, cans, and so on—and then either counting each piece, or weighing them per type. Doing this will provide you with data on which type of waste you most have, which are recoverable, and which are not, and therefore could go to the landfill.

For the Marpi landfill, the waste sort study took place the week of April 8 to 13, 2019, and involved incoming haulers—commercial trucks (green trucks by Joeten Groceries and Ace Hardware), private direct haulers (private citizens, Parks and Recreation, and the mayor's office), private collection haulers, and haulers from the Lower Base transfer station.

The sorters sorted and analyzed a total of 50 samples, using 32-, 33-gallon totes, or 5-gallon buckets, during the operating hours of the landfill, from 8am to 4:30pm. According to the study, 440 tons of municipal solid wastes were brought to the landfill the week the sort was done.

Again, majority of the wastes are cardboards and other fiber materials, and other organics, all of which biodegrade, and can be recycled or com-

posted. Plastics, glass, and metals, too, can be recycled when properly segregated.

Curbside collection and waste convenience centers

To effectively manage wastes from the community, the study recommended, in terms of the materials that get donated, reused, and recycled, that the Lower Base Transfer Station be expanded. In addition, it was also suggested that more convenience centers be created, where people can go and properly sort and manage their wastes and recyclables.

A ban on the disposal of cardboard to the landfill was also recommended. A major recommendation is the collection of a fee, which would fund a universal collection, as well as a rate structure where every resident and every business pays, and gets access to solid waste program services.

A system of curbside collection was also recommended, as well as the provision for drop off centers and alternative waste diversion programs such as the formalization of swaps and trades that are already happening in the community.

Also, the creation of a solid waste authority was recommended, to set enact, and oversee all these rate structures, and service resources that would guide the flow of wastes in the

community, with the main objective of preserving the capacity of island's only landfill.

The importance of managing our wastes is perhaps best expressed jointly by Naputi, and Youth Congress speaker Cielo Citlalli G. Long, in previous Saipan Tribune interviews.

Naputi said, "To extend the lifespan of our only landfill, waste reduction and recycling is the best way to start. When we practice reducing, reusing, and recycling our waste, we help send less waste to the landfill... thus, extending its life."

And from Long, this important question, "Many individuals who reside in the CNMI value the importance of land and understand how controversial its topic tends to be. ...Would you rather give land to your children and hold its importance true, or would you rather waste it away?"

For those interested in the full study, the CNMI Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Feasibility Study prepared by GHD Inc. for the Office of Grants Management can be downloaded from the Office of Planning and Development website: <https://opd.gov.mp/library/agency/department-of-public-works/>

Source: CNMI Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Feasibility Study, December 2019

7 things you can do to fight climate change right now

By SAM SCHIPANI
BANGOR DAILY NEWS, MAINE

The recently released 2021 report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about the state of the climate left many feeling hopeless this week. In short, we are almost at the point of no return when it comes to catastrophic climate change.

But, there is hope if people instead see it as a call to action.

First, it's important to note that most of the responsibility for preventing catastrophic global climate change is not on the individual. A 2017 report from the Climate Accountability Institute found that just 100 companies are responsible for 71 percent of global emissions since 1988 (and fossil fuel companies have long lobbied to control the narrative around climate change to blame individuals). The IPCC report outlines the ways in which policy-makers need to regulate greenhouse gas emissions on a larger scale to avoid catastrophic climate change.

That's not to say that individual choices don't matter at all. They do, especially when it can lead to collective action, where your choices inspire friends, family and neighbors who inspire their own friends, family and neighbors until the powers-that-be take notice. Here are ways you can take action to reduce your individual contribution to climate change.

BUY LESS, USE LESS

Most of the advice for reducing your

individual contribution to climate change boils down to this: we need to buy and use less of nearly everything, from energy to consumer products.

Let's focus on the latter. After all, large companies don't create emissions unless people are buying the products that result from them—an estimated 90 percent of total emissions from the largest emitters come "indirectly" from producing products, according to the Climate Accountability Institute.

According to a 2020 study led by Columbia University, the average product results in carbon emissions of 6.3 times its own weight across its lifecycle. Every time you order a random trinket online, think about the greenhouse gas emissions that were used to make it and get it to you, and consider whether or not you really need it.

WALK, BIKE OR TAKE A TRAIN

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, transportation accounts for about 29 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions.

Opting for low-carbon methods of transportation is one of the best ways to reduce your personal carbon footprint. Walk or bike whenever possible instead of driving. This is easy when you live in a city, sure, but in a mostly rural state like Maine, it's harder. There is no easy individual solution to this, except to try to car-

pool when you and where you can.

If you are going on vacation, consider the ways you can travel more sustainably. Instead of flying for longer distances, take the train if you can. Yes, it takes longer and can be more expensive, but trains create about half the greenhouse gas emissions that planes.

CONSIDER YOUR HOME ENERGY CONSUMPTION

According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, the U.S. residential sector accounts for 21 percent of all energy consumption and is responsible for 20 percent of our country's carbon emissions.

Making efforts to reduce energy usage in the home will help to reduce that contribution. Conduct a home energy audit to see where you are wasting unnecessary energy (and, frankly, money). You can also take steps to make your home more energy efficient.

Consider renewable energy options for your home as well. Maine offers a number of incentives for homeowners to add solar energy systems to their homes. Over time, these systems will save you money as well.

EAT MORE SUSTAINABLY

You are what you eat—and so is the planet. Making more earth-conscious diet choices is an effective way to reduce your carbon footprint.

This, unavoidably, means eating less animal-based products. According to the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations, global livestock account for 14.5 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Yes, even locally-grown, pasture-raised meat can have an outsized carbon footprint.

In 2019, the United Nations IPCC put out a special report that recommended high-income countries switching to plant-based diets as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Even if you can't see yourself transitioning to a vegetarian or vegan diet, try to incorporate more plant-based meals and alternatives to your meaty favorites when you can.

Eating food that is grown locally also reduces the greenhouse gas emissions that are used to transport food long distances.

SAY NO TO PLASTIC

As the Center for International Environmental Law points out, nearly every piece of plastic begins as a fossil fuel, and greenhouse gases are emitted at each stage of the plastic lifecycle, from refining and manufacturing to managing plastic waste. If plastic production and use grow as currently planned, by 2050, the cumulation of these greenhouse gas emissions from plastic could reach over 56 gigatons, which is 10 to 13 percent of the entire remaining carbon budget.

Saying no to plastic is getting easier in Maine, with plastic bag bans going into effect statewide this year. But the problem doesn't stop there. Resist the urge to opt for groceries that use excessive plastic packaging.

Reduce plastic use in your daily life as much as you can, whether it is in your backyard garden or in your community at large.

TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

As you make changes to your lifestyle, talk to your friends, family and neighbors about why you are doing so. The butterfly effect of individual action is one of the greatest hopes we have to combat climate change.

Talking about climate change has become a partisan issue, which can make it challenging to discuss the topic with people who have opposing views. TED has helpful tips on how to have a conversation about climate change.

VOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PLANET

When voting at any level—whether it is the city government or the U.S. president—make sure you know where all the candidates stand on issues of climate change. Effective policy that advocates for clean energy, transitioning away from fossil fuels and reducing carbon pollution is the real key to curtailing runaway climate change.

No matter who you are and what you believe, you may be tired of hearing the same advice over and over again. But if the IPCC's most recent report is any indication, humanity is at an inflection point when it comes to climate change. Now more than ever, it's time to take that seriously.

Life & Style

R. Kelly due back in court for opening of sex-abuse trial

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B star R. Kelly will be back in a criminal court on Wednesday, this time for opening statements in his long-anticipated federal trial arising from years of allegations that he sexually abused women and girls while pursuing fame and fortune.

More than a decade has passed since Kelly was acquitted in a 2008 child pornography case in Chicago. It was a reprieve that allowed his music career to continue until the #MeToo era caught up with him, emboldening alleged victims to come forward.

The women's stories got wide ex-

posure with the Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." The series explored how an entourage of supporters protected Kelly and silenced his victims for decades, foreshadowing a federal racketeering conspiracy case that landed in Kelly in jail in 2019.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn have lined up multiple female accusers—mostly referred to in court as "Jane Does"—and cooperating former associates who have never spoken publicly before about their experiences with Kelly.

They're expected to offer testi-

mony about how Kelly's managers, bodyguards and other employees helped him recruit women and girls—and sometimes boys—for sexual exploitation. They say the group selected victims at concerts and other venues and arranged for them to travel to see Kelly in the New York City area and elsewhere, in violation of the Mann Act, the 1910 law that made it illegal to "transport any woman or girl" across state lines "for any immoral purpose."

When the women and girls arrived at their lodgings, a member of Kelly's entourage would set down rules about not speaking to each other,

how they should dress and how they needed permission from Kelly before eating or going to the bathroom, prosecutors say. Also, they allegedly were required to call him "Daddy."

Defense lawyers have countered by saying Kelly's alleged victims were groupies who turned up at his shows and made it known they "were dying to be with him." The women only started accusing him of abuse years later when public sentiment shifted against him, they said.

Kelly, 54, is perhaps best known for his smash hit "I Believe I Can Fly," a 1996 song that became an in-

spirational anthem played at school graduations, weddings, advertisements and elsewhere.

An anonymous jury made up of seven men and five women have been sworn in to hear the case. The trial, coming after several delays due mostly to the pandemic, will unfold under coronavirus precautions restricting the press and the public to overflow courtrooms with video feeds.

The New York case is only part of the legal peril facing the singer, born Robert Sylvester Kelly. He also has pleaded not guilty to sex-related charges in Illinois and Minnesota.

Archaeologists find skeleton, evidence of Greek in Pompeii

ROME (AP)—Archaeologists in the ancient city of Pompeii have discovered a remarkably well-preserved skeleton during excavations of a tomb that also shed light on the cultural life of the city before it was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in AD 79.

A skull bearing tufts of white hair and part of an ear, as well as bones and fabric fragments, were found in the tomb in the necropolis of Porta Sarno, an area not yet open to the public that is located in the east of Pompeii's urban center. The discovery is unusual since most adults were cremated at the time.

An inscription of the tomb suggested that its owner, a freed slave named Marcus Venerius Secundio, helped organize performances in Greek in Pompeii. Experts said it was the first confirmation that Greek, the language of culture in the Mediterranean, was used alongside Latin.

"That performances in Greek were organized is evidence of the lively and open cultural climate which characterized ancient Pompeii," the director of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, said in a statement announcing the discovery.

Robert Durst testifies he would lie to get out of trouble

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor attempted to ensnare Robert Durst in a web of deceit Tuesday after he admitted at his murder trial that he lied under oath in the past and would lie to get out of trouble.

The New York real estate heir said he hadn't lied during five days of testimony, but a series of inconsistencies during cross-examination in Los Angeles County Superior Court threw his credibility into question and exposed the risk of putting a defendant on the witness stand.

Deputy District Attorney John Lewin, who relished the prospect of grilling Durst and prepared a 200-page outline for questioning, got him to acknowledge there are some acts he would never be honest about.

Lewin asked how jurors were supposed to believe Durst.

"If you've said you've taken an oath to tell the truth but you've also just told us that you would lie if you needed to," Lewin asked, "can you tell me how that would not destroy your credibility?"

"Because what I'm saying is mostly the truth," Durst said. "There are certain things I would lie about,



New York real estate scion Robert Durst, 78, answers questions from defense attorney Dick DeGuerin, left, while testifying in his murder trial at the Inglewood Courthouse on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, in Inglewood, Calif. AP

certain very important things."

Durst said he would never admit killing Susan Berman—even if he had done so.

"Did you kill Susan Berman?" is strictly a hypothetical," Durst said. "I did not kill Susan Berman. But if I had, I would lie about it."

Durst, 78, has pleaded not guilty to murder in the point-blank shooting

of Berman, his longtime confidante, in her Los Angeles home. Durst said he found a lifeless Berman lying on a bedroom floor when he showed up for a planned visit just before Christmas 2000.

Durst said he had prepared for Lewin's interrogation but was anxious.

"I feel relieved that I'm close to

getting this over, and I'm nervous, of course," Durst told Lewin. "What I want today is to be acquitted."

Playing clips of interviews Durst gave filmmakers, an interrogation conducted after Durst's arrest in New Orleans in 2015, and clips from his testimony, Lewin got Durst to admit several lies he told over the years.

Prosecutors say Durst silenced Berman as she prepared to speak with New York authorities about the disappearance of his wife, Kathie, in 1982 and how she provided a false alibi for him.

Durst acknowledged he wouldn't admit killing Kathie Durst if he had. And he wouldn't admit murdering his neighbor Morris Black in Galveston, Texas, in 2001 if he had done so.

He has never been charged with a crime in his wife's disappearance and has denied killing her. Her body has never been found, but she has been declared dead.

Durst was acquitted of murder in Black's death after he testified he fatally shot the man during a struggle for a gun. He was convicted of destroying evidence for chopping up the man's body and tossing it out to sea.

Beau's female friends send a 'hands-off' signal to his paramour

EAR ABBY: I have been seeing a wonderful man for seven months and spend every weekend with him. We live 45 miles apart, but it works for us. He has a group of friends, five ladies, that he spends a lot of time with. He dated one of them for a year before he broke it off, but they remain friends. I have met the group and, while they act friendly, I get a proprietary vibe from them. It makes me feel extremely uncomfortable around them and I have told him so. Am I looking for trouble where there isn't any? Should I just ignore the fact that his friends are women? He has men friends, too, but it's the girls he is closer to.

THREATENED IN ARIZONA

DEAR THREATENED: Some men relate better to women than they do to men—which may be why your gentleman friend is closer to these women than to his male friends. They may be emitting a "proprietary vibe" because they feel threatened and fear you will steal him away.

I don't know where this relationship is headed, and neither do you at this point. So for now, ignore the "vibes." Be warm and friendly to the women and concentrate on what you have going with him. And please, write me again in six months so I and my readers know what happens.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is expecting her second child. I threw a baby shower for her when she was expecting her first

and she complained that it "felt cheap" and wasn't the celebration she envisioned. I was deeply hurt, but the shower was for her, and I did not want to focus on my feelings. I apologized and tried to make it up with extra gifts. I am unsure whether I should plan a shower for her now. I don't want to offend her by not doing so. Everyone in our circle is fully vaccinated for COVID so that would not be a concern. Please advise.

WELL-MEANING IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR WELL-MEANING: Your daughter's behavior is rude, insensitive and ungrateful. You are under no obligation to give her another baby shower. If she approaches you for another one, suggest she ask some of her friends to give her the "shower of her dreams."

P.S. This is just an FYI, but if you care about the rules of etiquette, it is considered a breach for a mother to throw her daughter a shower. You have already done more than enough for her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why, in social situations, do women with long hair feel the need to constantly change their hairstyle from an updo to letting it fall to their shoulders and vice versa? This lets hair -- and dander--fly around, and it's especially offensive at the dinner table. It's like bringing in a collie and having it shake all over three or four times. We have noticed this especially in middle-aged women. Does anyone else find this offensive? My

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



neighbor thinks they are trying to draw attention to themselves.

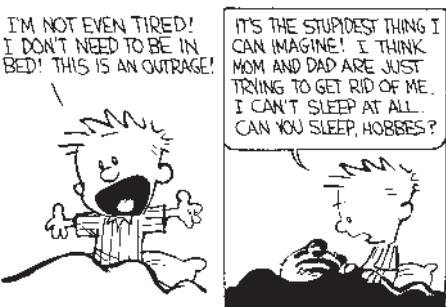
HAIRY SITUATION IN WASHINGTON

DEAR HAIRY SITUATION: This is a habit I have observed among women of every age. Switching from an updo to down and vice versa could also be temperature-related. (Could the middle-aged women be menopausal?) It may also be a nervous habit. But in most cases, I agree with your neighbor. It screams, "Look at me!"

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

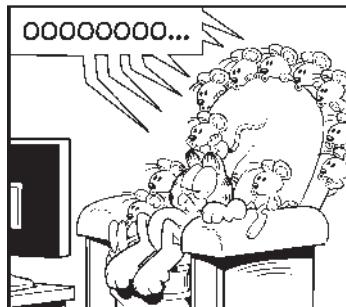
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

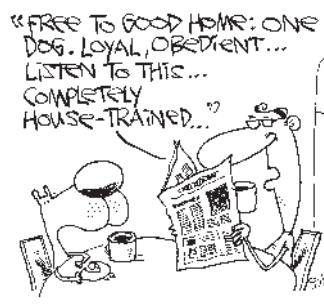
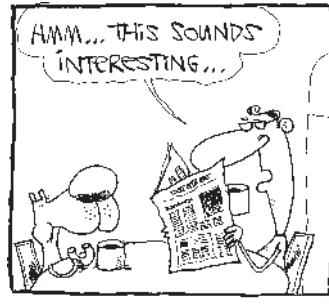
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

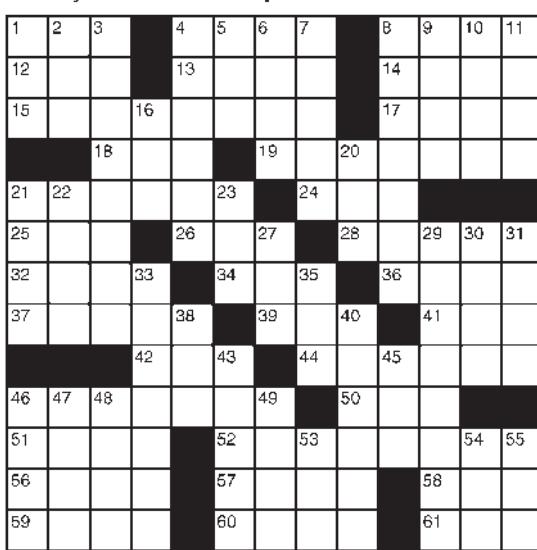


By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Since Jan. 1	61	Roulette bet	20	Espionage org.
1 Actress	42	Pop's mate	21	"Phooey!"	22	Oodles
4 Celestial bear	44	Throngs	1	Candy heart word	23	Gist
8 Miles away	46	— up (increased)	2	Mineral suffix	27	Cut the lawn
12 Multi-purpose truck	50	Memo letters	3	Wordiness	29	Parachutist
13 "Unh-unh"	51	Region (Abbr.)	4	Not just	30	Low-calorie
14 Roman 1052	52	Type of pitcher	5	Marseilles monarch	31	Termini
15 Authenticates	56	Arm bone	6	Raced	33	Tennis champ
17 Small iPod	57	Wildebeests	7	Fable writer	35	"Humbug!"
18 Bikini top	58	Actress Mendes	8	Memory loss	38	Swab the deck
19 Museum guides	59	Honey bunch?	9	Custard recipe	40	Kids' card game
21 Shriveled grape	60	Leave an impression?	10	— She Sweet"	43	Combine
24 Math ratios		11 Ocho —	11	Ocho —	45	Deli loaf
25 Mode lead-in		16 Apr. ad-dressee	12	16 Apr. ad-dressee	46	Ticket half
26 Pirates' potation		Solution time: 24 mins.	13	Far (Pref.)	47	Far (Pref.)
28 Bridal path			14	Sea eagle	48	Sea eagle
32 Raiments			15	49 Fender bender	49	49 Fender bender
34 Short do			16	53 Captain Jean-Picard	50	53 Captain Jean-Picard
36 Related			17	54 Wife of Adam	51	54 Wife of Adam
37 Fulton's power			18	55 "Way cool!"	52	55 "Way cool!"
39 Witty one		Yesterday's answer 8-19				

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Manny Jacinto, 32; Christina Perri, 35; Matthew Perry, 52; John Stamos, 58.

Happy Birthday: Take care of business. Leave nothing to chance. Opportunity is present, but discipline and reliability are required if you want to come out on top. Look at the possibilities; refuse to let what others do influence or sidetrack you. Concentrate on stabilizing your life and relationships with the people you care about most. Romance and physical improvements are favored. Your numbers are 3, 12, 22, 28, 34, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay focused on what's important to you. Stop worrying about what everyone is doing, and refuse to get caught in someone else's emotional drama. Size up whatever situation you face, and do what's best for you. Self-improvement is favored. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look around you, and you'll pick up valuable information. How others react will be revealing and help you decide what to do next. Change is heading your way; take advantage of an opportunity that leads you down a different path. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let your actions speak for you. Treat others the way you want to be treated, and choose a path that allows you to use your skills to make a difference. Change begins with you. Explore your options, and invest in yourself. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's up to you to do something if you want things to change. Challenge yourself to be responsible for your happiness and well-being. Live in

the moment, embrace life and dance to the beat that fills your heart with joy. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a realistic approach to work and money. How you handle the changes going on around you will determine how far you get. A moderate, simple strategy will help offset costs and losses. Your reliability will win respect and support. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk to anyone you think may be able to help you make a positive change or explain something that baffles you. Communication, education and interacting with people who share your interests will encourage new and exciting friendships. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A tactical approach to overall health and physical fitness will encourage you to look and feel your best. The attention you receive from someone will help point you in a new direction. Love and romance are in the stars. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Walk away from anyone who limits what you can achieve. You can help others, but not at the expense of eliminating the personal goals you set. Be responsible. Do your own thing, and do what benefits you. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put an emphasis on getting things right the first time. Pay attention to detail, and don't rely on others to do what you ask correctly. Create your opportunities, and you will be happy with the results you get. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pay attention to expiration dates and personal paperwork that may need updating. Take a different approach to work, and utilize your skills to have the most significant impact in the least amount of time. Focus on proper diet and fitness. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Analyze how you spend your time and money. Being efficient will make life easier. Set up guidelines that will help you get into a routine. A physical improvement will fetch compliments and build confidence. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a unique approach to the way you help others. Use your intelligence, and you'll be recognized as the go-to person by your peers. A partnership will evolve if you have an open discussion with someone who shares your beliefs and concerns. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, generous and witty. You are colorful and friendly.

• Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7		3	9	2	1
2		4		3	
1					
3		6		2	
9			4		
2	9	1		7	
3	6			5	
9		5	4	3	2
2	7	6	5	9	8

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	4	6	7	8	2	1	5
6	8	5	2	1	4	3	9	7
7	2	1	9	5	3	4	6	8
2	5	6	7	4	1	8	3	9
1	4	3	8	2	9	7	5	6
8	7	9	5	3	6	1	4	2
5	1	8	4	9	7	6	2	3
9	3	7	1	6	2	5	8	4
4	6	2	3	8	5	9	7	1

Difficult Level ★★★

8/19

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 7 letters

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PHANTASMS

S	I	R	E	T	C	E	P	S	H	A	D	O	W	S
T	E	N	I	L	L	U	S	I	O	N	R	O	C	S
N	N	M	V	B	S	S	T	H	G	I	L	F	U	U
A	F	A	B	E	F	R	T	L	R	M	T	E	N	U
M	A	U	N	L	N	I	E	A	A	Y	I	L	R	T
Y	B	C	R	E	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	A	E	A
E	R	R	O	V	N	I	F	O	H	N	T	A	F	
G	I	C	W	N	B	E	C	O	A	G	E	L	A	
O	C	G	H	O	S	T	R	E	N	K	M	A	M	N
B	A	S	W	I	I	M	A	G	I	N	E	O	S	T
P	T	P	S	M	E	A	E	N	R	C	S	C	A	
I	E	I	E	R	V	E	R	K	I	H	A	S		
R	O	P	A	V	R	S	R	U	R	N	T	A	R	
T	S	E	G	A	M	I	S	A	G	D	I	D	E	A
I	M	A	G	I	N	A	T	O	N	W	E	I	V	

Hendricks keeps Reds in check as Cubs end 12-game skid, 2-1



CINCINNATI

(AP)—Kyle Hendricks' 200th career appearance was especially satisfying for him and the skidding Chicago Cubs.

The 31-year-old right-hander not only became the first 14-game winner in the majors, but he helped the Cubs end a 12-game losing streak with six strong innings in a 2-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

"It's just cool to see everybody come in and execute and do their job and finally see the results," said Hendricks, who made his first major league appearance on July 10, 2014, in the same Cincinnati ballpark. "It was nice."

Hendricks (14-5) gave up three hits in six innings—the only big one a two-out homer by Nick Castellanos in the sixth—as Chicago won for the first time since Aug. 4 in Colorado. The Cubs are 3-15 since selling off their biggest stars at the trade deadline last month.

Chicago had lost 12 in a row for the first time since 2012.

Frank Schwindel had a run-scoring double for the Cubs in the third, his sixth straight game with an extra-base hit. Happ homered to right field leading off the sixth, one of his three hits.

"Kyle giving us the start that he did was huge," manager David Ross said.

Cubs reliever Rowan Wick loaded the bases in the seventh but struck out Jonathan India before Adam Morgan came in from the bullpen and got Joey Votto to ground out.

Codi Heuer retired Cincinnati in order in the eighth and ninth for his second major league save and first this season.

"We had the top of our order in the seventh," Reds manager David Bell said. "Those guys have come through time and time again. Give credit to the Cubs pitchers. They made pitches when they had to."

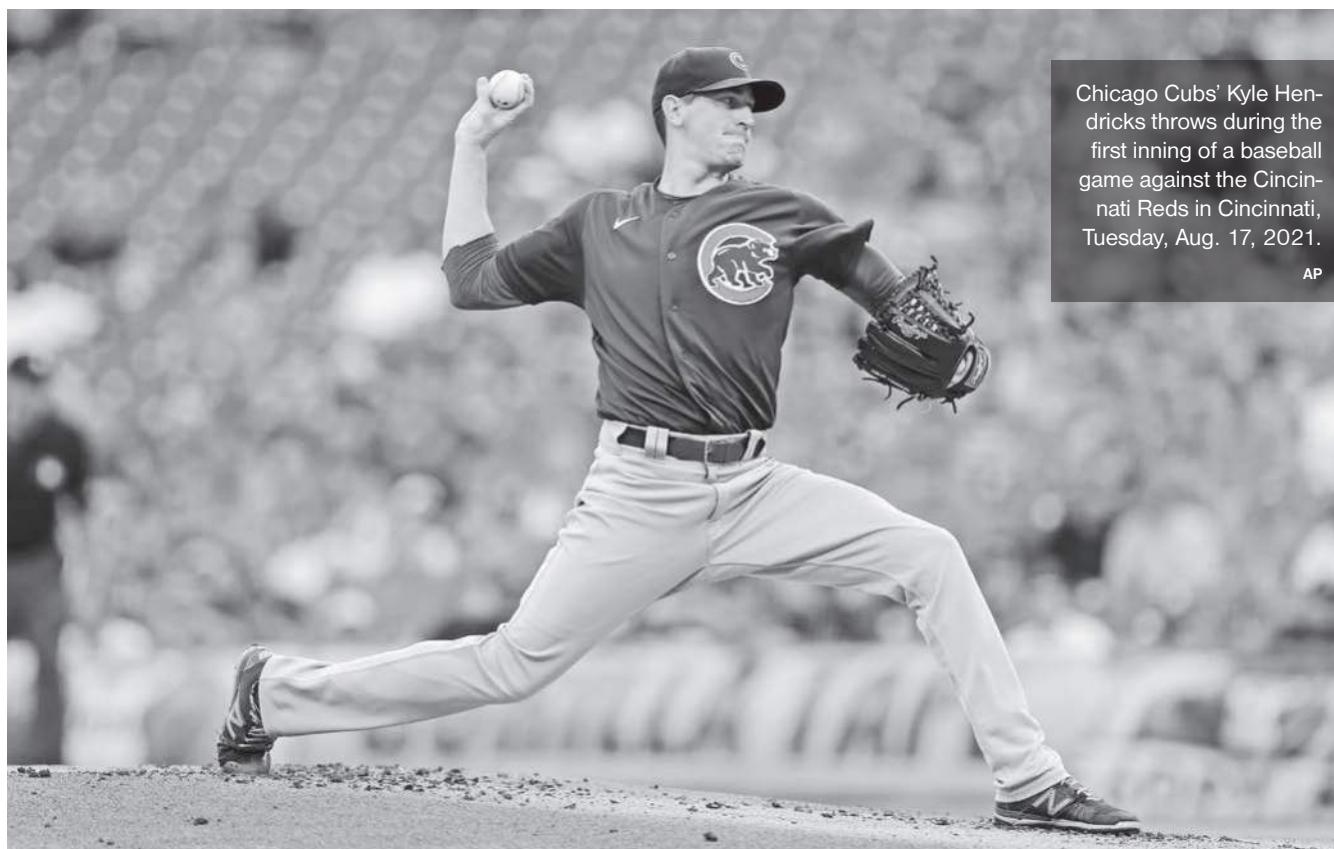
Reds rookie Vladimir Gutiérrez (8-4) gave up nine hits while striking out seven over 6 1/3 innings. He won his previous four starts.

"I felt pretty good about my outing," Gutiérrez said. "I feel confident with all of my pitches right now."

Yankees 5, Red Sox 3, 1st game Yankees 2, Red Sox 0, 2nd game

In New York, Luis Gil posted his third straight scoreless start to begin his career, Luke Voit and Giancarlo Stanton homered, and New York swept Boston in a doubleheader and moved percentage points ahead of the Red Sox for an AL wild-card spot.

In the opener, Jonathan Loaisiga stranded the bases loaded in Boston's final at-bat



Chicago Cubs' Kyle Hendricks throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Cincinnati, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021.

AP

for a gutsy two-inning save after New York capitalized on a wild outing by Red Sox relievers.

The Yankees have won five straight and 12 of 15 to narrowly overtake Boston for second in the AL East.

Gil allowed three hits and four walks and struck out four over 4 2/3 innings. He is the only major league pitcher since at least 1901 with no runs allowed and 15 or more strikeouts through his first three games, according to YES Network. Chad Green closed out the ninth for his fifth save and second in two days.

Wandy Peralta (4-2) earned the win. Nathan Eovaldi (10-8) took the loss.

Giants 3, Mets 2

In San Francisco, Tommy La Stella hit a two-run homer in the first inning to back Logan Webb's sixth straight win, and San Francisco dealt fading New York its fifth straight loss.

Evan Longoria connected leading off the seventh against Marcus Stroman (8-11) as the major league-best Giants (78-42) improved to 7-1 on a homestand that precedes the Bay Bridge Series at Oakland this weekend.

Webb (7-3) has been masterful during this winning streak, striking out 65 batters, with eight more against the Mets over a career-high 7 1/3 innings. He exited after Pete Alonso's two-run homer in the eighth.

Diamondbacks 3, Phillies 2

In Phoenix, Josh VanMeter hit a two-run homer, Taylor Widener pitched five quality innings and Arizona beat slumping Philadelphia.

The Phillies lost for the fifth time in seven games as they try to keep pace in the National League playoff

race. Bryce Harper homered in the third to give Philadelphia a 1-0 lead but the Phillies couldn't generate much offense the rest of the way.

The Phillies—trailing 3-1—threatened in the ninth when Brad Miller hit a double and later scored on a wild pitch.

Tyler Clippard earned his third save. Miguel Aguilar (1-1) got the win after throwing 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Philadelphia starter Kyle Gibson (8-5) gave up three runs and seven hits over six innings. He walked two and struck out five.

Rays 10, Orioles 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Nelson Cruz homered twice, three pitchers combined on a four-hitter, and AL East-leading Tampa Bay extended Baltimore's losing streak to 13 games.

Cruz moved past Dave Kingman into 42nd place on the all-time home runs list with 443. His three-run shot off John Means during a five-run fifth inning made it 8-0, and he hit a two-run shot in the sixth against Tanner Scott.

Chad Ellis (1-0) got his first major league win with three-hit ball over the final four innings.

Mike Zunino homered in his fifth consecutive game for the Rays.

Means (5-5) gave up seven runs (four earned) and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Braves 2, Marlins 0

In Miami, Jorge Soler snapped a scoreless tie with a two-out RBI single in the eighth inning, and Atlanta beat Miami.

Austin Riley hit his 26th homer, a solo blast off Marlins reliever Anthony Bender in the ninth. Freddie Freeman had two hits for the NL East-leading Braves, who won their fifth straight and 12th in 14 games. Atlanta also has won nine straight road games

Chris Martin (2-3) got the win by pitching a scoreless seventh. Will Smith got his 26th save with a perfect ninth.

Sandy Alcantara (7-11) allowed one run and five hits, with seven strike outs and one walk.

Nationals 12, Blue Jays 6

In Washington, Riley Adams homered and drove in three in his first game against his former team, Erick Fedde won for the first time in more than two months and Washington snapped a season-high, seven-game losing streak.

Adams had three hits. Yadier Hernandez went deep and drove in three for the Nationals, who had dropped 12 of their last 13.

Teoscar Hernández homered for the third consecutive game for Toronto, which has lost four of five since reaching a season-high 11 games over .500 on Wednesday.

Fedde (5-8) allowed three runs on five hits, while striking out four.

Toronto starter Alek Manoah (5-2) took the loss. He allowed seven runs in three innings.

Angels 8, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Jo Adell hit a tie-breaking grand slam in the ninth inning for his first homer this season and Kurt Suzuki followed with a solo blast, lifting Los Angeles past Detroit.

Miguel Cabrera, one home run away from No. 500, was 0 for 2 with two walks.

Mike Mayers (3-4) struck out the side in the eighth inning on 10 pitches for the Angels and gave up only one hit in the ninth.

Gregory Soto (4-3) retired just two batters in the ninth when he gave up six runs, five earned, on four hits and two walks.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Corbin Burnes took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and Kolten Wong had three hits and was hit by a pitch against his former team as Milwaukee beat St. Louis.

Burnes (8-4) allowed two hits and two walks while striking out three in six innings. He is 6-0 in his last 13 starts and has not lost since May 25, against San Diego. Josh Hader earned his 24th save in 25 chances.

Adam Wainwright (11-7) allowed just two runs in six innings despite surrendering nine hits and two walks.

Tommy Edman broke up Burnes' no-hit bid with a single to left field in the sixth inning.

Mariners 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Tyler Anderson allowed one run on three hits in six innings for his first win with Seattle in a win over Texas.

Anderson (6-8) struck out four, walked none and retired his final 12 batters after giving up a third-inning home run to No. 9 batter Andy Ibanez.

Luis Torrens homered for an insurance run with two outs in the ninth.

Rookie Cal Raleigh scored Seattle's first two runs, on sacrifice flies by Ty France in the third inning and Mitch Haniger in the fifth.

Paul Sewald picked up his fifth save in seven opportunities. Taylor Hearn (2-4) allowed two runs in five innings in the loss.

Royals 3, Astros 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Daniel Lynch allowed one run over seven innings, Hanser Alberto hit a two-run double in the sixth, and Kansas City beat Houston.

Jake Brentz earned his second career save.

Michael Taylor also drove in a run for the Royals, who

topped the AL West leaders in two straight games.

Lynch (3-3) gave up a two-out RBI single to Carlos Correa in the third inning. He allowed four hits and three walks, while striking out five.

Framber Valdez (8-4) lasted 6 2/3 innings for Houston, permitting three runs on nine hits and a walk.

White Sox 9, Athletics 0

In Chicago, Oakland pitcher Chris Bassitt was carted off the field after he was struck on the side of his head by a line drive, casting a shadow over the Athletics' loss to José Abreu and Chicago.

With two on and no outs in the second inning, Brian Goodwin drove a ball up the middle. Bassitt (12-4) went down on the mound after he was hit, holding his head. He was attended to on the field before being helped into a cart while holding a towel to his face.

The team said the 32-year-old Bassitt was "conscious and aware," and was taken to a hospital.

Abreu and Jake Lamb each hit a three-run homer for the AL Central-leading White Sox. Andrew Vaughn had two hits and two RBIs.

Reynaldo López (2-0) pitched five innings of one-hit ball.

Indians 3, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Eli Morgan threw six scoreless innings, Daniel Johnson hit a two-run homer and Cleveland held on to beat Minnesota.

Morgan (2-5) allowed just three hits and struck out eight to win for the first time since June 28. Emmanuel Clase earned his 17th save in 21 chances.

Bailey Ober (1-2) cruised through four innings before running into trouble in the fifth. Ober gave up three runs—two earned—and five hits in six innings.

Rockies 7, Padres 3

In Denver, Germán Márquez pitched into the seventh inning and helped himself with two hits and two RBIs as Colorado overcame three home runs by San Diego.

C.J. Cron and Charlie Blackmon homered for the Rockies.

The Padres got solo homers in the seventh inning from Fernando Tatis Jr., Tommy Pham and Jake Cronenworth, who had an inside-the-park home run.

Márquez (11-9) took a one-hitter into the seventh before Tatis hit a towering homer. He went 6 1/3 innings and allowed three runs on five hits. He added an RBI single in the fourth and a run-scoring double in the sixth.

Blackmon had three RBIs, starting with a run-scoring fielder's choice in the first inning off Matt Strahm (0-1).

Embiid signs \$196 million extension with 76ers



PHILADELPHIA

(AP)—Joel Embiid has deep into the decade to try and win his first NBA championship with Philadelphia. Another big-money deal locked up, the All-Star nicknamed “The Process” wants to end his career a Sixers lifer.

The 76ers kept their trust in Embiid and signed the 7-footer to a multiyear contract that a person familiar with the situation said was a four-year, \$196 million extension, taking him through the 2026-27 season.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because specific terms of the deal announced Tuesday were not made public.

“There’s no place like PHILADELPHIA!!! Excited to continue working towards bringing a title home and eventually retire here #PHILLY,” Embiid wrote on social media.

His new deal will start in 2023-24. Embiid and the 76ers signed a \$148 million, five-year extension that kicked in with the 2018-19 season.

The 27-year-old Embiid was NBA MVP runner-up this season to Denver’s Nikola Jokic, making him eligible for the supermax contract extension. Embiid led the Sixers to the best regular-season record in the Eastern Conference. Under coach Doc Rivers, the Sixers lost in the second round to the Atlanta Hawks.

The Sixers tweeted a photo of Embiid and team owner

Philadelphia 76ers’ Joel Embiid (21) goes up for a dunk during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in Philadelphia, in this Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, file photo.

AP



Josh Harris with the contract that said, “@joelembiid isn’t going anywhere.”

“Joel is the definition of elite—a role model in our community and a true MVP-caliber superstar on the court,” Harris said. “Since he was drafted in 2014, his rare blend of skills, charisma and leadership has transformed this franchise. We couldn’t be more grateful and excited to continue watching him in a 76ers uniform.”

Embiid, the No. 3 overall pick out of Kansas in the 2014

draft, shook off more injuries and averaged 28.5 points and 10.6 rebounds last season. He tore cartilage in his right knee during the playoffs but played through the injury and was unstoppable at times in the post. He scored 36 points in 28 minutes in a Game 3 first-round win over Washington. He followed that up with 39 points in Game 1 and 40 in Game 2 in the East semis. Embiid was 11 of 21 and scored 31 points in Philadelphia’s Game 7 home loss to the Hawks.

“It just felt like this was going to be our year,” Embiid said after Game 7. “If there’s one thing I want to say, I gave everything I had. It’s not easy, especially when something always happens at the wrong time. I was ready, this whole playoffs, to just come in and dominate and do what I had to do. The meniscus happened.”

Embiid averaged 24.8 points and 11.3 rebounds over his first five seasons in the NBA. Embiid, a native of Cameroon, sat out his first two seasons with

injuries and has never played more than 64 games in a season over his career. He missed games this year with a bone bruise on his left knee.

Embiid has solidified his future in Philly at the same time fellow All-Star guard Ben Simmons faces an uncertain one with the team after an ugly postseason. The Sixers expected to pair Embiid and Simmons as cornerstones who could keep the team as a contender in the East for a decade.

Instead, Simmons became the

scapegoat for the Sixers’ early elimination from the playoffs and his name has been dangled in trade rumors all summer.

Embiid, though, signed the kind of contract that locks him in as a Sixer through the prime of his career.

Embiid, who became a father last year, joined Hall of Famers Shaquille O’Neal and David Robinson are the only players in NBA history to average at least 24 points and 11 rebounds in their first 260 games. Since entering the league, Embiid has 173 double-doubles, which ranks second all-time in franchise history since the 1983-84 season. Among players who have debuted since 1954-55, Embiid is the NBA’s all-time leader in points per 36 minutes, with an average of 29.3 points.

Embiid was named to his third career All-NBA Second Team selection and earned an All-Defensive Second Team selection.

Among his charitable endeavors, he donated his \$100,000 All-Star Game winnings to area homeless shelters, partnered with a grocery chain in December to help five families with rent or mortgage relief, and pledged with Sixers ownership a combined \$1.3 million to Penn Medicine for COVID-19 antibody testing of front-line health care workers.

76ers President Daryl Morey tweeted a photo of Embiid signing the contract with a lock and championship trophy emojis.

King's offense, Mitchell's defense leads Sacramento to title

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Louis King slammed home a two-handed dunk with a little more than two minutes left in the third quarter of the NBA Summer League championship game, let out a monstrous roar and promptly flexed with authority. Fittingly, it was King who dominated for Sacramento and finished with 21 points to help the Kings cruise to a 100-67 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night in front of a sparse, masked crowd that barely filled the bottom bowl, an uncommon scene for a title game that has packed the venue in recent years prior to the pandemic.

It was Sacramento’s first Summer League title since 2014.

“Our transition, that’s what started it, our defense and transition points, that’s what it came down to,” said King, who started his career in Detroit after going undrafted from Oregon in 2019. “I feel like everything we’re doing now, that we’re doing all summer, and what we’ve been do-

ing is just going to translate into our regular-season team.

“We’ve got new guys, new faces and we just got to trust each other.”

One of those new faces is defensive stopper Davion Mitchell, who was taken ninth overall in last month’s draft and was out to prove the franchise didn’t make a mistake in adding him to an already guard-heavy lineup that includes Tyrese Haliburton and De’Aaron Fox.

It’s not as if the Kings needed a boost to an offense that ranked 11th in the league with 113.7 points per game last season. Instead, it was the guard’s defensive tenacity the Kings are hoping will help a lethargic defense that allowed 117.4 points per game, third-worst in the league.

“We loved what we saw and that’s why we drafted him,” Kings coach Luke Walton said. “We continue to try to bring a certain player in and the front office has done a nice job, and you watch Davion play and you see him win a national championship,



Sacramento Kings players hold up the trophy after defeating the Boston Celtics in the NBA summer league championship basketball game Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021, in Las Vegas.

be a defensive team because defense wins championships. So yeah, coming into Summer League I tried to show that and I think I did a really good job of that.”

After the Celtics took a 14-4 lead behind the strong play of Nesmith, who opened the game with eight points, the Kings stormed back quickly with a 20-6 run to take a four-point lead after one behind 10 points from King.

The Kings, who had the edge in fast-break points (24-4), pulled away in the third quarter by outscoring Boston 26-13 to take a 70-49 lead into the final 10 minutes.

“I didn’t know what to expect out of this game,” coach Bobby Jackson said. “I knew it was going to be a really good game because looking at them on film they play fast, they shot a lot of 3s. In my meetings, I always told the guys they haven’t run across a defense like us, and if we buy into defending and have each other’s backs, the ball is going to fall. It was just an effort on the defensive side of the ball.”

you get his background and how he competes and how he leads and how he works, and that’s why we spent a top-10 pick on him.”

While the Kings got additional contributions from Jahmi’us Ramsey (16), Matt Coleman III (14), and Ade Murkey (10), Mitchell

chipped in with nine points but more importantly shut down Boston sharpshooter Payton Pritchard.

Carsen Edwards had 15 points and Aaron Nesmith 12 for Boston. Pritchard finished with just six points after being limited to 3-of-9 shooting from the floor.

“All my life I’ve played with a chip on my shoulder. I’ve kind of always been like the underdog, especially coming to Sacramento hearing that they’re not a really good defensive team,” Mitchell said. “That kind of just turned me on, like I really want to change the narrative, I want to

Tim Tebow's comeback story ends with Jaguars cutting him

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Tim Tebow's comeback and NFL career are over.

The Jacksonville Jaguars waived Tebow on Tuesday, parting with the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner who switched from quarterback to tight end in hopes of rejuvenating his pro football career.

"We knew that was an uphill battle for Tim," said coach Urban Meyer, who recruited Tebow to nearby Florida. "Players loved him, locker room loved him, but it was the right thing (to do)."

Tebow's blocking ranged from awkward to awful in Jacksonville's preseason opener against Cleveland on his 34th birthday. The polarizing player went viral for two botched attempts on the opening drive of the third quarter Saturday night, the second one more egregious than the first.

"He has a bunch of good plays but can't have a bad play at that position," said Meyer, who spoke to Tebow about the roster decision Monday night and again Tuesday morning.



Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Tavon Austin, right, makes a reception as tight end Tim Tebow (85) looks to block oncoming Cleveland Browns safety Jovante Moffatt (35) during the first half of an NFL preseason football game, Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I've never wanted to make decisions out of fear of failure and I'm grateful for the chance to have pursued a dream."

Tebow opened training camp as Jacksonville's fourth- or fifth-string tight end after switching positions this year. He was trying to return to the NFL after spending the previous five years in the New York Mets' organization. He hit .223 with 18 home runs and 107 RBIs while never making it to the big leagues.

He asked Meyer for a tryout after retiring from baseball in January. Meyer obliged and ended up giving him a one-year contract worth \$920,000, the minimum for a player with three accrued NFL seasons. The low-risk deal included no guaranteed money, so Tebow had to make the team to earn a dime.

And that was always the uncertain part. Jacksonville entered camp with three tight ends essentially locked into roster spots: run-blocking specialist Chris Manhertz, fellow veteran James O'Shaughnessy and fifth-round draft pick Luke Farrell.

Tebow also failed to record a catch against the Browns and got no snaps on special teams. Meyer said Tebow's play lacked consistency, especially in tackling. And if Tebow were going to make Jacksonville's 53-man roster, he needed to be a special teams contributor.

Meyer said he expects this to be the end of Tebow's playing career.

"I would guess it is," Meyer said. "We didn't get that deep with it. Obviously he's his own man, elite warrior, elite competitor. But he's also 34 years old."

Tebow was shielded from the media circus that followed

him during other NFL stops and never publicly addressed his return after nearly six years away from the game. The Jacksonville native responded on Twitter and thanked his hometown team for a chance.

"Thankful for the highs and even the lows, the opportunities, and the setbacks," Tebow wrote.

said the fulfillment he gets from running and his other passion, biking, is that these hobbies keep him in shape.

"They improve the cardiovascular system, stamina, endurance, and helps you lose calories for weight lost. You also get that runner's high and you get to meet people that enjoy the same thing as you do and it gives you something to do instead of staying at home."

As for how he got started in biking, Lucido said he got his first bike when he was just 12 years old and it had training wheels.

"It was scary and hard to try and balance yourself when riding two wheels the first time but once you get used to it, it is a fun experience. I started off riding with a mountain bike then moved on to riding a road

bike. Riding on a mountain bike and road bike is very different from each other because in a road bike you're kind of slouching where as a mountain bike not so, and plus the stability on a road bike is much less than on a mountain bike."

His coach, Dela Cruz, said he has mixed emotions with Lucido going off to college and leaving Saipan.

"I'm sad to see him leave but I'm very happy for him. He has great opportunities in Hawaii. He has developed exponentially as a runner. He can take what he learned here and continue to grow out there."

He added that Lucido is a very big part of Run Saipan and the club will be missing a very invaluable piece moving forward.

"He made a lot of contribution. Our races are always Saturdays and he's had to juggle helping with his online classes which shows his commitment. He's always with me when we have to measure our race courses. Then switched to timer or check in or both on race days. The hardest thing to do in any sport competition is getting volunteers to facilitate it. It's even harder to get dedicated and committed ones like him," he said.

While he's excited to go back to face-to-face learning in Hawaii, Lucido said he'll definitely miss being able to see the running community in one place that his stint as a volunteer with Run Saipan provided.

"Getting to meet new people and make new friends is

surely exciting and we already have one thing in common which is we love running. Another thing I will miss is routing each month's 5K Underground race and to see what people will go through when race day comes."

Asked what he'll miss most about the island, Lucido said it's the simple fact that everything is not too far from each other.

"Your house, grocery stores, school, work, etc. is all close by compared to the state side. It would only take you 10-15 minutes to get you where you want to go, also depending on where you go. The breathtaking views that this island offers, sunrises, and sunsets and no one can beat out local food on Saipan. I will surely miss my Run Saipan family and also

points to prevail over Golden Racquets Badminton Club (39) Taga Badminton Club (39), United Badminton Club (27), and Community Badminton Club (25). Teams received 3 points for a match won in two games and 2 points for a three-game victory.

Head-to-head results saw

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	73	47	.608	
New York	68	52	.567	5
Boston	69	53	.566	5
Toronto	63	55	.534	9
Baltimore	38	80	.322	34

Central Division

Chicago	70	50	.583	
Cleveland	58	60	.492	11
Detroit	58	63	.479	12½
Minnesota	53	67	.442	17
Kansas City	51	67	.432	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	64	56	.533	
Philadelphia	61	58	.513	2½
New York	59	60	.496	4½
Washington	51	68	.429	12½
Miami	51	69	.425	13

Central Division

Milwaukee	73	47	.608	
Cincinnati	65	56	.537	8½
St. Louis	61	57	.517	11
Chicago	53	69	.434	21
Pittsburgh	42	78	.350	31

West Division

San Francisco	78	42	.650	
Los Angeles	74	46	.617	4
San Diego	67	55	.549	12
Colorado	54	66	.450	24
Arizona	39	81	.325	39

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

my kababayans in biking."

Before bidding his home island goodbye, Lucio left some advice to those who want to start into running and biking.

"My message to the island's running and cycling communities is that I am thankful to have met every single one of them. They help me build motivation to keep running and biking especially when they are done with a workout and I see it on Strava. Always keep safe when training and good luck to any future races they will be participating. I will surely miss seeing the running community every time there is our monthly 5K underground races and to the biking community I will surely miss seeing all of them every early Saturday and Sunday morning," he said.

Shirley's defeat UBC, 14-14, and CBC, 13-5, in Day 1 of the tournament last July 30 and then outclassed Taga Badminton Club, 14-4, in Day 2 last July 31. Golden Racquets was the only challenge that Galvez and company didn't hurdle as both teams settled for a 9-9 draw in Day 2.

King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament in sponsored by Budweiser, All-Star Sporting Goods, Power 99, and Marianas Variety.

Deadline to register for the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament has been extended to Friday, Aug. 20. For more information, call Ikluk Masayos at 287-7979 or Villanueva at 285-4269.

RUN

From Page 20

came a volunteer because simply I wanted to help my coach out and it also helps me decide my run for the day when we route out the course. Being a host for a running club is a tough job and so I just wanted to help Edward lessen the load for his part. And since I have the free time to do so, why not help out," he said.

And this dedication comes from someone who didn't do any track at all in high school. "I did not join track in high school. All I did in high school was play basketball and video games. Looking back at it now, I wish I added track and field to that list."

The son of Joey and Gemma Lucido of Chalan Kanoa

OVERALL

From Page 20

two of them for playing exceptionally well. They have the chemistry in their games which allowed them to perform well."

Galvez also acknowledged the contributions of Sefric

Veloria in the men's C and mixed C division. "This was his first tournament and he played really well showcasing his power smashes."

He also recognized the play of his men's A doubles partner, Lance Gallardo. "He brought forth his best game even against some of the national players,

displaying powerful smashes and tight net drops that helped remedy our performance."

The SBC captain said the rest of the team—Patrick Fielddad, Hajin Oh, Alvin Alvarez, Sung Chul Kim, Ian Lubao, Angie Ito, Miles Guerrero, Keiko Ojima, and Gigi Zapanata—also had key contributions

that led them to victory.

"In the end everyone else in the team played their best and team support played a key role in their motivation to play their best which helped our team's chances of winning the tournament."

As a recap, Shirley's Badminton Club collected 50

until a team or player reaches or exceeds the score of 21.

"We are inviting registrants who enjoy cornhole or want to learn about the game to register at the Capitol Hill Ballfield between Aug. 29-30. Budweiser will be putting up some nice in-kind prizes for this and the home run derby," said Villanueva.

Prizes for the tournament

the ring and only 15 slots remain for the tournament set from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield. He earlier said that the tournament will have slots for 30 teams and entries will be determined in a first-come, first-served basis.

15 TEAMS

From Page 20

the ring and only 15 slots remain for the tournament set from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield. He earlier said that the tournament will have slots for 30 teams and entries will be determined in a first-come, first-served basis.

"We appreciate all the participants and teams who have already signed up. They are prepared to put on a show for the King of the Diamond tournament. A mix of new and old teams are excited to be playing at a high level of field play and utilizing official American Softball Association Rules (modified ASA 2021)," said Villanueva.

Aside from the actual softball games, a home run derby and a cornhole tournament will also be held. According to the internet, cornhole is a lawn game wherein players take turns throwing 16-ounce bags of corn kernels at a raised board with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one on the board scores 1 point. Play continues

are nothing to sneeze at as first place is \$1,000 plus a set of 12 uniforms, second place is \$750, third place is \$500, and fourth place is \$350.

"We invite the CNMI to come and support and enjoy the festivities. We will have food and drinks on the grounds and everyone is welcome to come and barbecue!" he said.

Entry fee is \$350 and the



Hendricks
keeps Reds in
check as Cubs
end 12-game
skid, 2-1

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Saipan Tribune Sports

20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

Tim Tebow's
comeback
story ends
with Jaguars
cutting him

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Run Saipan volunteer off to college



Run Saipan Jalen Lucido, lying on the track, poses with coach Edward Dela Cruz, left, and other members of the club during their training session at the Oleai Track and Field last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

One of the vital cogs behind Run Saipan's series of underground events is leaving the CNMI to continue his college education in Hawaii.

Jalen Lucido, one of Run Saipan's volunteers, will be going off-island this Saturday, bound for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"My major is Elementary Education with a specialty in multilingual learners. I actually was already enrolled since August of 2019 and I did a whole school year in the university before coming back to Saipan for the summer. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic I was unable to travel back to Hawaii and all of my classes were fully online through Zoom," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 23-year-old Marianas High School alumnus said despite being active in the track and field scene on Saipan the past year, he doesn't expect to all of a sudden join the Rainbow Warriors' track and field team.

"I don't think I'll be joining the track team in my school. I only do running and cycling for fun and races for the thrill and experience of it. If there is ever a track club in Hawaii, I'll definitely join them for training sessions. I would mostly train for running, but for biking I am not too sure about it yet. Maybe sometime in the future when I get to meet some friends that cycle," he said.

Looking back, Lucido shared that he became a volunteer of Run Saipan when his coach, the group's coordinator Edward Dela Cruz, decided to do monthly 5-kilometer races.

"He would tell me routes that he had planned for that month's 5K and our job as staff is to run the routes at least once or twice to make sure we get the distance right. I be-

See RUN on Page 19



In this file photo, a Falcons batter hits the ball during their game against the Blue Jays in the 2019 Natibu Sports Association Boys Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield. SAIPAN TRIBUNE

15 teams so far signed up for 'King of the Diamond'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With a little over a week before the start of the King of the Diamond Labor Day Softball Tournament, Roil Soil Marketing owner Shayne Villanueva said so far 15 teams have thrown their hats inside See 15 TEAMS on Page 19



ested teams to sign up for the competition.

Roil Soil Marketing owner Shayne Villanueva said so far 15 teams have thrown their hats inside See 15 TEAMS on Page 19

'Overall teamwork' secret to SBC's success

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NMBA Shirley's Badminton Club ruled the roost in the recently concluded IT&E Badminton Team Tournament and team captain Andreau Galvez is the first to admit that he didn't expect his team to win the competition after also taking the diadem in the season-opening TanHoldings Team Tournament.

"I didn't think we would win again, although we are happy we did. I had players who do practice regularly and we have had a few practice sessions with just our team in preparation for the tournament. There really isn't any secret, rather having the respect and full support from one another as a team. Although it was a two-day tournament, it felt as if we had been a team/family for a while. The comfort, re-



Shirley's Badminton Club team captain Andreau Galvez, left, and men's A partner Lance Gallardo in action during the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament last July 31 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

the CNMI national badminton team in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa gave kudos to his team's women's doubles C players, Hiroko Tajima and Kazuko Sondheim. "I want to recognize the See OVERALL on Page 19